

Misuari's bloc hits unity agreement

STORY
ON PAGE A2



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Solon shows 'em what austerity is



BY ROCKY NAZARENO

HE GOES to work on a bike and wears *purantong* shorts in his office. He uses a small service vehicle for his rounds back home. And when his finances SOLON/A16

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS

AUGUST 5, 2001

★★

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4 more headless bodies found

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT AND JONATHAN MA
PDI Mindanao Bureau

LAMITAN, Basilan—Terror continued to stalk this town, with four more headless bodies found yesterday afternoon inside a coconut plantation in Barangay Balobo.

"I feel very, very sad, especially in coming 4 MORE/A16

'Ping' has \$21.1 M in US'

Victor Corpus submits AFP-PNP post-operation report to GMA

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA
AND CARLITO PABLO

SEN. PANFILO "Ping" Lacson Jr. and deposed President Joseph Estrada have laundered nearly \$1 billion believed to have been amassed since 1996 from drug-trafficking, kidnapping and other criminal activities into bank accounts in three countries, according to military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus.

Held in both individual and joint accounts in Citibank and the Bank of America, at least \$728,500,293 is stashed in 18 savings, checking and time deposits in the United States, Hong Kong and Canada, said Corpus, head of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp).

"The accounts exist and are authentic. We were able to confirm their existence through official and unofficial channels," he said, citing the findings of a military and police intelligence team sent recently to San Francisco to investigate the accounts allegedly held by Estrada, Lacson and the senator's wife, Alice.

Corpus, who signed and submitted the mission's post-operation report to President Macapagal-Arroyo, planned to give her a final report yesterday on the results of both the mission and an ongoing military intelligence probe.

But US authorities have only confirmed the existence of one \$24-million account held by Lacson in a Citibank branch on 2400 19th Ave. in San Francisco, Corpus said in one of two separate interviews with the INQUIRER in which he detailed his bombshell allegations.

PING/A16

LIST OF ALLEGED \$ STASH

SEN. PANFILO LACSON'S BANK ACCOUNTS			\$211,388,420.53
BANK	ACCOUNT NUMBER	BAL. AS OF JULY 01	
1. Citibank Hong Kong	0694-5322-0034-4000	\$ 28,471,232.21	
2. Citibank Hong Kong	0692-3133-0042-5000	\$ 35,000,341.33	
3. Citibank, Ontario, Canada	0800-5542-0026-5000	\$ 21,720,333.61	
4. Citibank, California, USA	0102-7720-0045-5000	\$ 24,457,685.00	
5. Citibank, California, USA	0800-5565-0067-8000	\$ 34,334,720.80	
6. Citibank, New York, USA	0800-1471-0000-6000	\$ 11,500,436.35	
7. Bank of America, California, USA	0800-4331-0017-1000	\$ 17,447,000.00	
8. Bank of America, New York, USA	0174-7800-0004-6000	\$ 38,456,671.23	

JOSEPH ESTRADA and SEN. PANFILO LACSON'S JOINT ACCOUNTS

1. Citibank, Hong Kong	0510-9355-0084-5000	\$ 29,475,021.26
2. Citibank, Hong Kong	0510-5271-0066-2000	\$ 12,220,451.25
3. Citibank, Hong Kong	0801-2782-0069-9000	\$ 5,325,000.89
4. Citibank, Hong Kong	0206-7946-0067-4000	\$ 15,321,283.65
5. Citibank, Hong Kong	0408-3639-0077-6000	\$ 35,220,010.00
6. Citibank, Hong Kong	0501-7866-0056-0000	\$ 21,271,340.65
		\$118,833,107.70

SOURCE: ISAFP

SEN. PANFILO/Alice LACSON'S JOINT ACCOUNT

1. Citibank, New York, USA	0800-6459-0056-5000	\$ 21,500,436.35
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ALICE LACSON'S BANK ACCOUNTS

\$ 40,357,078.79

1. Bank of America, Las Vegas, USA	0273-0601-0036-9000	\$ 21,956,231.14
2. Wells Fargo, Washington, USA	0800-4211-0021-0000	\$ 18,400,847.65

JOSEPH ESTRADA'S BANK ACCOUNT

1. Citibank, Hong Kong	5081-0300-4000-4311	\$336,421,250.16
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GRAND TOTAL: \$ 728,500,293.53

Lacson aware of probe; has denied charges

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

HE KNEW he was being investigated for his alleged secret bank accounts as early as March. And Sen. Panfilo Lacson said so last month while at the same time denying all the allegations about his alleged hidden wealth.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez who had at that time confirmed that justice and police authorities were indeed looking into Lacson's US bank accounts said he was surprised that Lacson "jumped the gun on them" by disclosing to the media that he was being investigated.

Top-cop-turned-politician,

Lacson said that Perez should resign if he failed to prove that Lacson was laundering money in the US.

But for his response to the banner story today based on an AFP-PNP team mission report that had been submitted to President Macapagal-Arroyo on July 20, the INQUIRER has been unable to reach

Lacson by telephone and text messages.

Perez explained that he had been asked by then Philippine National Police intelligence chief Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya to verify Lacson's alleged secret accounts through the justice department's American counterpart.

He said that he had written the US Federal Bureau of Investigation to verify Berroya's claims but that the FBI had yet to respond to his request.

On Friday, Sen. Ramon Revilla—who now belongs to the administration party—filed a resolution LACSON/A16

She walks tall helping poor

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

BY THE end of 1996, the general assembly of parishioners at the San Pedro Bautista church in San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City, had become a forum dominated by the more articulate, well-to-do section of the community.

The congregation's poorer members, residents of nearby slums, found themselves sinking into impotence, devoid of a real voice in the gathering.

Until the day Magdalena "Maggie" Tano, then 23, rose out of the mute cluster and "waddled" toward the microphone.

Waddling thus, or more pre-

cisely, walking on her knees as she was born without hands and feet, Maggie caught the attention of the crowd.

"We, the poor, have a place in this meeting," she told the crowd in Filipino, all the while holding the microphone by the lumpy tips of the two stumps that were her arms.

Those undeveloped arms and legs that once made her own kin spite her and caused her untold suffering as a child, have become Maggie's strength and charm in a life dedicated to caring for similarly battered, handicapped and unwanted children.

For right after that outburst in that parish forum in 1996, Maggie

caught the attention of a group of would-be social workers. Soon, she would co-found the Green and Purple Sanctuary-Bahay K Inc., currently based on Couper Street in San Francisco del Monte.

Green stands for Mother Earth, purple the universal color for women. "K" may mean either *kalinga* (care) or *karapatan* (rights). GPS-BK is essentially a feminist organization working for a "gender-fair" and "child-friendly" society as well as for environmental awareness. It handles cases of abandoned or abused children and women "survivors" of rape or domestic violence.

SHE/A17



AND the winner is ... "Bathing Beauty" contestants from left, Ester Galoso, 65; Magdalena Valenia, 65; Nene de Leon, 74; Fely Rivera, 60; Lolita Ong, 70; are among 17 grannies vying for the title in October in a contest sponsored by the Philippine United Senior Citizens Association. EDWIN BACASMAS

Beauty is not just skin-deep

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

ORANGE-HAIRED Contestant No. 11 walked down the wet ramp in her bathing suit, showing off her 5'5 frame.

No. 11—Lolita Ong of Caloocan City—is 70 years old. "Would you believe, it's actually the first time I ever wore a bathing suit in my entire life!" Ong said, adding:

"It's nice. I feel so young. We

were all happy out there.

"Now we know that it's never too late for anything."

Ong and 17 other lovely *lolas* (grandmothers) trashed age and inhibitions for a day last week and had the time of their lives at the "Bathing Beauty" contest sponsored by the Philippine United Senior Citizens Association (Pusca) in Pansol, Laguna.

To stress the point that beauty is

not just physical, the Pusca chose a blind professor to serve as judge.

The pageant served as a prelude to the group's celebration of Elderly Week in October and featured senior women from Metro Manila and the peripheral provinces.

Most important, it veered away from traditional beauty contests that put a premium on youth and physical appearance.

BEAUTY/A17

NO SHOES? Don't cry. Magdalena Tano with neither arms nor legs does not. She stands up to her deprivations to embrace the handicapped at Talayan Village, San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City, where she lives. Due to financial difficulties, she dropped out of a computer course, and now gives all her time to enabling the disabled like Christine Lozano with a harellip, blind Manelyn Mangalana, mentally retarded Joanna Lozano and Bernadette Lozano.



EDWIN BACASMAS

Mike can take care of himself, says Palace gabster

THE PALACE official being eyed as a spokesperson for First Gentleman Mike Arroyo sees no need to limit his principal's media exposure.

Press Undersecretary Roberto "Bobby" Capco said Arroyo is a political expert who can take care of himself.

"The First Gentleman is a lawyer and a businessman. He's considered an expert in politics, having been the chief political lieutenant of his wife since the start of her political career, so he can ably speak for himself," Capco said in an interview Friday night.

He added, however, there were some instances where Arroyo might need a spokesperson.

He cited the recent incident where Arroyo left for the United States for medical reasons and he continued to receive flak because of allegations he had

taken a bribe.

On his return to the country, Arroyo began freely giving interviews, one of which was abruptly cut short by the President who could be heard chastising her husband over the radio to stop giving interviews.

Asked what would be

the new policy on interviews for Arroyo, Capco said they were still studying their options.

"I don't think media will stop their interviews of Mike Arroyo. The First Gentleman will always be a media item," he said.

"What you see is what you get (with

Mike Arroyo), there is nothing fake about him," Capco said.

He said, however, Arroyo would always be

available for interviews in line with the "policy of transparency" of the Macapagal administration. **Martin P. Marfil**

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OPINION

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Historic and ironic

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit to Malaysia which begins tomorrow is her first overseas trip since taking office. The trip follows a historic pattern, but it also has an ironic twist.

The visit to Malaysia underlines the regional priority of Philippine foreign policy. Filipino presidents since President Corazon Aquino have always put visits to member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations ahead of visits to other regions.

EDITORIALS

This emphasis shows the high priority we give to strengthening the Asean while reducing our lopsided relationship with our former principal ally, the United States.

The visit to an Asean country is especially significant in the context of the regional group's efforts to rebuild its cohesion after intra-regional relations were frayed by the 1997 Asian financial crisis and the tumultuous political crises in the Philippines and Indonesia.

The visit to the Philippines in late August by new Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri in the course of her Southeast Asian trip illustrates the fresh impulses in the region generated by new leaders trying to mend broken fences.

The ironic aspect of the Macapagal visit is that it was her father, President Diosdado Macapagal, who laid the Philippine claim to Sabah, opening an era of often turbulent relationship between the two countries. The Malaysian invitation and the President's acceptance represent an effort from both sides to heal open scars. Relations between the two countries soured again during the past administration whose outspoken sympathy for the jailing of former Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim antagonized the government of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

The Macapagal visit should not be seen as taking sides in Malaysia's internal politics. The rapprochement between Manila and Kuala Lumpur takes a different accent. The accent is about events that have compelled the two countries to work more closely rather than go on their own separate ways.

The first is the need for closer cooperation on cross-border security dramatized by the Abu Sayyaf abduction last year of foreign and Malaysian holidaymakers in Sipadan and, more recently, the abduction at the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan. In the latter case, Malaysia reinforced cross-border naval patrols to aid the Philippines in isolating the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers in their stronghold in Basilan.

The second is that Malaysia is now hosting the peace talks between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Whether or not an agreement over the direction of the talks would be signed during the President's visit, the important thing is that the climate has become more favorable for a productive dialogue. This should not raise false expectations that the end of the Mindanao conflict is in sight. Rather, it should only be an opening of a new terrain not poisoned by the acrimony of the "all-out" war waged by the previous administration against the MILF.

Thirdly, the visit should be a step toward reviving the moribund East Asia Growth Area whose promise of integrating the economies of southern Philippines with those of Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei was blown away by the Asian financial crisis. In her State of the Nation Address, Ms Macapagal said she would seek an Eaga revival. Eaga's new life and peace in Mindanao are intertwined.

Asean renewal

SOUTHEAST Asian leaders' visits to each other's capital are better appreciated as an effort toward broader regional cooperation than as opportunities for bringing home concrete financial or economic benefits.

Ms Macapagal will be in Kuala Lumpur during the 34th anniversary of the founding of the Asean. It should be an occasion to spark an Asean renewal as this organization, which has now grown to 10 Southeast Asian nations from the original five in 1967, struggles to rise from the economic devastation of the 1997 crisis.

President Macapagal and President Megawati are new generation leaders whose fathers—Diosdado Macapagal for Ms Macapagal, and President Sukarno, for Megawati—played leading roles in the formative years of Southeast Asian regionalism. They also lead democracies experiencing wrenching episodes in democratic development. Without doubt, both are aware of their historic opportunities in revitalizing links among members of the Asean.

The end does not justify the means

I WATCHED on television sometime ago the Abu Sayyaf suspects who claimed they were subjected to torture during their tactical interrogation by the military. They exhibited cigarette burns on their bodies allegedly caused by the investigators. One detainee complained that the soldiers pushed pepper into his anus to compel him to confess.

The captives were presumably not represented at the time by counsel, who otherwise would have raised a howl. It is doubtful if the military had advised them of their right to legal assistance, considering its well-known disdain for the Constitution. One might assume that, in the secrecy of their headquarters, the interrogators had free use of all their sophisticated and brutal methods of manhandling their victims.

It is not as if they were violating esoteric rights for these are writ large in our Bill of Rights and applied often enough by our Supreme Court.

In Sec. 12(1) of Art. III, it is clearly provided that "any person under investigation for the commission of an offense shall have the right to be informed of his right to remain silent and to have competent and independent counsel, preferably of his own choice. If the person cannot afford the services of counsel, he must be provided with one. These rights cannot be waived except in writing and in the presence of counsel."

A tactical interrogation is a custodial investigation within the meaning of that provision. In the celebrated case of *Miranda v. Arizona*, 384 US 436, the custodial investigation, which had provoked many protests before, and still does, was defined as "any questioning initiated by law enforcement officers after a person has been taken into custody or otherwise deprived of his freedom of action in any significant way."

Our Rep. Act No. 7438 goes farther and says "custodial investigation includes the practice of issuing an 'invitation' to a person who is investigated in connection with an offense he is suspected to have committed, without prejudice to the liability of the 'inviting' officer for any violation of law."

It is bad enough that many of the suspects were arrested without warrant after they were rounded up in the lawless operation known as the "zona"

SEPARATE
OPINION

Isagani
A. Cruz



(sanitized by the authorities as "the areal saturation drive"). Impliedly permitted by the Supreme Court (because the tribunal has not outlawed it), the "zona" allows the law enforcement agents to arbitrarily arrest and detain any person pointed to by their hooded informer as a criminal.

This was how many Filipino guerrillas were arrested (and sometimes executed on the spot) by the Japanese soldiers. But that was during World War II, when we were under enemy occupation. Similar operations took place in 1991, when the war had long ended, but the Supreme Court refused to declare them violative of the Bill of Rights. In *Guazon v. De Villa*, 181 SCRA 623, it held that the complaining petitioners were "not proper parties."

What is worse is that the complaints of the Abu Sayyaf suspects appear to be valid, given the physical evidence of their own wounded bodies. The cigarette burns were there for all to see. It would be foolish to even think that those burns were self-inflicted to give credence to the suspects' allegations. Cigarette burning is more believable as the familiar handiwork of the investigators in extracting confessions from both the guilty and the innocent.

Characteristically, the military arbitrarily dismissed the suspects' charges, saying there was no violation of their human rights. Gen. Edilberto Adan, its spokesperson, added, as if in justification of its alleged operations, "These people are vicious and evil. Let's put these charges in the proper context—we're fighting a war, a vicious war."

I take it that, for the reasons given by Adan, the suspects do not deserve to be treated as human

beings and have forfeited their rights as such "in the proper context."

In the first place, these suspects are at this point only suspects and so enjoy the constitutional presumption of innocence. In the second place, their alleged identification with the Abu Sayyaf does not in any way diminish the rights guaranteed to every person accused of a crime. In the third place, it is not for the military to usurp the power to pronounce their guilt, which belongs exclusively to the courts of justice, and only after proper trial. Finally, even if the accused were eventually convicted, they could not be validly subjected to the torture inflicted upon them by their interrogators, and prematurely at that, as punishment for their offenses.

As a soldier, General Adan should know that under the laws of war, combatants when captured are entitled to humane treatment. Prisoners of war are not allowed to be tortured simply because they are "vicious and evil." At any rate, we are not engaged in what Adan calls "a vicious war" but are only dealing with bandits in a contained locality. Maybe he is preparing the excuse for the imposition of martial law, which is allowed "only in case of rebellion or invasion, when the public safety requires it."

Adan maintains that the military operations sanctioned by Malacañang under the guidelines issued by the Department of Justice have resulted in the arrest of many Abu Sayyaf members. As impressive as this achievement may seem, it nevertheless does not legitimize the military abuses committed. The obstinate fact is that as the suspects were arrested without warrant and their custodial investigation disregarded their "Miranda rights," the sanction itself and the implementing guidelines must be considered unconstitutional.

Like many of our people, I have no sympathy for the Abu Sayyaf. I submit, however, that in the campaign against the bandits, the end does not justify the means. The government's efforts should be pursued with utmost respect for the right of every single individual in the land to justice under law. Scoundrels are as protected as the rest of us by the Constitution that rules us all.

Spiders and goldfish

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry

M. Orbos, SVD



the sunset years of one's life.

Think about it: How much money do you need in life to be happy? Money is like seawater: the more you drink it, the thirstier you become. And even if you had all the money and all the things that money can buy, how much time do you have?

Are you full? A preacher once brought out a glass container and put rocks on it and asked the congregation if it was already full. When the congregation answered yes, he proceeded to put in pebbles. Next he poured in sand, and finally he poured in water declaring that now the container was really full.

Lesson? You and I can never really be filled up by this world's rocks, pebbles and sand. Only water—the Living Water—can really fill us up!

For those who have so many homes, clothes or cars, remember that when you will be buried, you will occupy only a few meters of the earth. You will use only one set of clothes, and you will ride only in one car. What happens to all the things that you will leave behind? And what about your soul?

Maybe this may sound morbid, but for those who have a will, have you made a provision that a part of what you leave behind be given to the poor and the needy? It is your last act of generosity and love. Aside from your children and your grandchildren, let your riches go to charitable institutions or foundations (like the SVD Mission Philippines for our missionaries).

This provision in your will could be your provision for your final journey to eternity. Think about it. Make that will.

Please help Caritas Manila's scholarship program for deserving but needy elementary, high school and college students. Your annual donation of P4,000 can help support an elementary scholar; P4,500 a high school scholar; and P6,000 a college scholar. At present there are 1,000 Caritas scholars. Support the Cardinal Sin Silver Jubilee Caritas Fund for the Poor. Call Tel. Nos. 564-1831, 563-9311, 563-8383.

I was shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Fr. Raul Villamiel at the young age of 45. I knew him as a Jesuit seminarian in Korea. He was so helpful to welcome us and show us newcomers around. The death of a fellow priest is always a wake-up call. Indeed, life is short. Let us do and give our very best now while we are still alive.

I took a strenuous 10-hour ride to Legazpi City recently to be present at the burial of and pay homage to Dr. Totoy Rocas, a man who served so many people in a most humble and personable way. For Tito Totoy, every person was worth stopping for. He has left a good name behind. He lived a beautiful, generous life. He was really worth stopping for.

Take a moment to look at your hands. Are your hands closed? Closed hands cannot pray. Closed hands cannot give. Closed hands cannot care. Remember too that closed hands cannot receive. So what is it that you are hiding in your hands? What is it that you cannot let go?

A moment with the Lord:
Lord, remove all the spiders and goldfish from my hands, so that they will be free and open to you and to my brothers and sisters. Amen.

Agriculture and the peso

CROSSCURRENTS

Antonio
T. Carpio



THE MACAPAGAL administration is looking at agriculture as the launching pad to revive the economy. Agriculture accounts for 20 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP), and employs 40 percent of the labor force. The administration has vowed to provide every year P20 billion to modernize agriculture. The administration is also determined to attract private capital to agriculture by making farmlands freely acceptable as collateral for bank loans.

The good news is that the administration is on the right track. With the world economy slowing down, we can no longer rely on an export-led growth. We have to turn to the domestic economy, and that means primarily agriculture. The manufacturing sector is hopeless because the captains of industry have given up the fight against the flood of low-priced imports from China and other Asian countries.

The bad news is that even at an exchange rate of P53 to US\$1, the flood of imported agricultural products will still continue. At this exchange rate, or even higher, it will still be profitable to buy rice at retail in Vietnam, ship it to the Philippines, pay the proper taxes and duties and sell the rice in Manila. This applies to other imported agricultural products like santol, tamarind, guava, apple, grapes, lychee, longkong and so many other fruits. These imported fruits sell like hot cakes in supermarkets and even public markets.

Who then will buy the produce of our small farmers come harvest time? Our poor farmers are fighting not only the annual typhoons, but also the deluge of cheap imports. While farmers can recover after every typhoon, they cannot survive the cheap imports that flood the country. The farmers must also struggle with bad roads, lack of storage and other post-harvest facilities, as well as high shipping costs.

Before the World Trade Organization regime, we held back the flood of imports with quotas

and high tariff walls. Even with an overvalued peso, cheap imports could not enter the country, although there were leakages from smuggling. The WTO eliminated the quotas and brought down the tariff walls. We maintained, however, our overvalued peso which resulted in a flood of cheap imports. This devastated our manufacturing sector, already reeling from high electric power and labor costs. Our industrialists were forced to reinvent themselves as importers or face extinction.

We have maintained an overvalued currency, thanks to our overseas contract workers who now inject at least US\$12 billion a year into our economy. The heroes of our republic sweat it out abroad to earn dollars, only to convert the same to an overvalued peso at P53 to US\$1. At this rate, importers can buy goods from China and other countries and undersell locally produced products. The importers are fast becoming the new elite.

If the exchange rate, however, drops to P80 to US\$1, then it will not be profitable for importers to bring in agricultural products from abroad. Our locally produced rice, santol, tamarind, guava, lanzones and other fruits will become cheaper vis-à-vis equivalent imported products. Our farmers can sell their products at a profit, encouraging Filipinos to once again invest in agriculture. The migration to urban areas will slow down, as more jobs become available in the countryside.

With incomes of rural people increasing, our

locally manufactured goods will find a market once again. At P80 to US\$1, manufactured imports will become very expensive, encouraging our industrialists to return to manufacturing even under a WTO regime. Our overseas contract workers will receive more peso for every dollar they earn abroad. This will entice more Filipinos to seek work overseas, increasing our inward remittances.

With imports of consumer goods falling because of the expensive dollar, we can conserve our foreign exchange, using it only for essential imports like fuel oil and capital equipment. There will be inflation at the start, but manufacturers will be more than willing to grant wage increases if they see less competition from imported goods. Even our service sector, like tourism, can absorb some wage increases because a cheaper peso will bring in more tourists. Retail stores that sell primarily locally produced goods will also be in a position to grant wage adjustments. And a cheaper peso will finally make non-performing loans of local banks attractive to foreign vulture funds, breaking the chain that has hobbled our banks from lending to industries.

As in any game, there will be losers. The biggest losers will be those still stuck with huge dollar-denominated loans. These people will probably go under, but their departure will allow the great majority of Filipinos to survive and prosper. The government will also be burdened initially with a heavier debt servicing of its foreign loans, but this will be more than compensated by the revival of agriculture and the manufacturing industry.

The Macapagal administration should not fret that the peso is depreciating rapidly. There is more to cheer when the peso goes down than when it goes up. And the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas should break free from the mind-set that its sworn duty is to keep on defending an overvalued peso that is killing our industries.

Confronting poverty

IN A RECENT column, Inday Badiday, the country's most prominent gossip columnist and movie talk show host, articulated well what many of us feel amid all the talk we hear these days about the poor, the so-called "Edsa Tres," and the government's fight against poverty. While recognizing that helping the poor is a moral imperative that falls upon every Christian and every Filipino, she nevertheless pointed out how the problem of poverty looked so immense and overwhelming. If our economists and the brains in government cannot solve the problem, how much more ordinary, mortal creatures like us? Indeed, she asked, "What are people like little, inconsequential me going to do?"

COMMENTARY

Nono Alfonso, S.J.

Institute on Church and Social Issues

Inday Badiday would have found greater reason to worry in the latest poverty statistics released by the National Statistical Coordination Board. According to the agency, the number of poor Filipinos grew by one million in the last four years. Of the 76.5 million Filipinos now, 40 percent live below the poverty line. An average family, according to the NSCB will need a monthly income of at least P12,000 to meet the basic necessities such as food.

What is more depressing in these figures is that, according to the Commission on Population, among the estimated 30.6 million Filipinos who are classified as poor, about 15.4 million fall below the food threshold. That is, they wake up in the morning "without any idea of where to get food to eat."

In the face of this overwhelming misery and poverty, what can an ordinary housewife or a minimum wage earner do? Considering that common folk like us also struggle to survive every day, are we supposed to be concerned about them? Should we be our brothers' keepers?

And yet as the so-called "Edsa Tres" made us realize, the lot of the poor concerns and affects everyone. John F. Kennedy once said, "If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich." And so since "Edsa Tres," many of us have realized that the fight against poverty must be waged now and that whether in a direct or indirect way, everyone must be involved. The work cannot just rest in the hands of the government which are already full trying to perk up the economy, pursuing the plunder cases against Estrada, fighting the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao, as well as substantiating its State of the Nation promises. Now more than ever, JFK's famous lines, "Ask not what the country can do for you, but what you can do for the country," ring true to many Filipino-loving citizens.

And indeed, private citizens' and civil society's initiatives against poverty have sprung up after the May riot of the urban poor in Manila. Individuals and organizations are trying everything from direct charity work to giving small credit for the poor. There are also reports that rich parishes and rich barangays are adopting poor parishes and poor barangays. Finally, some socially minded corporations are into providing employment and business opportunities to the poor.

All these, of course, may seem like mere drops in a bucket. Critics would say that what is needed is not the once-in-a-while, soup-kitchen kind of initiatives but a long-lasting and therefore structural approach to poverty. True, but while we pursue such long-lasting solutions, simple initiatives would also help. As the saying goes, a penny is better than having nothing at all. The point then is that there are many things that one can do for the poor, if one is really sincere and concerned enough. But that is the crux of the matter.

More often than not, the problem is more of attitude. Sometimes we let the country's dark and miserable situation overwhelm us and freeze us into pessimism, cynicism, or worse, inaction or indifference. If this happens, then indeed the situation will remain dark and miserable.

To the Christians among us (some 85 percent of this nation's population), our faith teaches action rather than inaction, especially as regards the "least of our brethren." Pope John Paul II has popularized the phrase "solidarity with the poor." Now more than ever, he says, Christians in whatever activity they are engaged must demonstrate this singular attitude of loving the poor.

Finally, our Christian faith teaches us hope. For while it is important that we take upon ourselves the task of helping the poor, it is ultimately God's work. And because it is so, through our cooperation and participation, it is bound to succeed.

Doubts raised about reform in Thailand

BANGKOK—Premier Thaksin Shinawatra's surprise acquittal on graft charges Friday is cause for celebration among his legions of fans, but casts serious doubts on political reform in Thailand, analysts said.

The decision by the Constitutional Court, one of the bodies created under the 1997 anti-corruption constitution, calls into question the health of those fledgling democratic institutions, they said. "The majority of the people will be very glad," said Siripan Nogsuan, a professor at Bangkok's prestigious Chulalongkorn University, with a nod to Thaksin's tremendous grass-roots popularity. "But this poses serious questions about the newly formed institutions, particularly independent organizations, created under the constitution."

Siripan said the integrity of the Constitutional Court, the nation's top legal institution, may have been compromised because of partisanship among the judges and the influence of Thaksin's public support. She said the judges may have tried to interpret the new constitution in favor of Thaksin amid heated debate over whether to eject the most popular leader in Thailand's history.

"Part of Thai society, mostly the academics and upper middle class, would say the judges had been pressured by the various groups supporting Thaksin," she added.

In the wake of the verdict, the premier will further solidify his iron grip on power and build on the resounding public support that has remained undimmed by the trial proceedings. "It seems now he's got even more legitimacy," Siripan said.

The Thai economy, still weak in the aftermath of the regional financial crisis of 1997-98, will benefit from the continuation of the Thaksin government, but the long-term outlook could suffer, other analysts said. "In the short term it's good for the economy and its good for the market," said head of research at SG Asia Securities Sriyan Pietersz. The Thai bourse, which had been rising all day on expectations of an acquittal, closed Friday 12.72 points, or 4.2 percent, stronger at 315.95.

Pietersz said the problem that had overshadowed Thailand's market before Thaksin came to power was a shortage of strong leaders, and that the premier swept to victory based on his take-charge image. "Thaksin was seen as a decisive leader that could lift Thailand out of its current rut," he said.

But longer-term prospects for the country may have suffered a blow as far as anti-corruption measures are concerned, he said. "There was a clear expectation just a week ago that the verdict would be negative, so I think it does raise questions about these institutions and whether there's actually any progress being made in the rule of law."

However, Thaksin's early departure might have interrupted the political continuity that Thailand desperately needs to heal its economic wounds, he said.

"There are long-term issues that can be raised, but the short-term issues are the most visible, and if Thailand had lost Thaksin at this juncture it would have put the country in a difficult position," he said.

Thaksin would have faced a five-year ban from office if the Constitutional Court had found him guilty of concealing part of his fortune in an official statement filed when he served as deputy premier in 1997.

AFP

When family comes to visit

AT LARGE

Rina
Jimenez-David



TOMORROW, we bid goodbye to our houseguests, my sister Chona, her husband Willy, their children Cesi, Rico and Alan, and guest Rob. During the three weeks of their home leave, we traveled to Pangasinan, Los Baños and Subic, shopped and partied, dined in both old favorites and fantastic finds, and generally bonded with family and friends.

One of the first things we did after their arrival was to bring Chona to S&R, the latest kick among the "PX crowd" upon the suggestion of Annie Cruz, wife of Willy's brother Danny. "Why did you bring me here?" Chona demanded as we cruised the aisles in search of junk food and other provisions for our trip to the Hundred Islands. "You might be feeling homesick," I joked, wondering if she felt like "squeeze-in" the Charmin."

"But I see this stuff all the time in the States," she complained, loading up instead in the fresh fruits section. It rained heavily that first day of their stay. In the evening, as my husband and I approached our street, we found to our horror that the water was lapping at the sidewalk's edge. I worried about leaks, and panicked when the maid told me that yes, water was trickling in through the damp walls in our son's room, where "the boys" were sleeping. "It's leaking where the *Amerikano* sleeps," my maid informed me helpfully, referring to the red-haired Rob. Fortunately, thanks to a silicon gun, we repaired the leak straightaway.

When Chona and family arrived about an hour later, the water had risen a few more inches. The van that brought them had to be driven up the sidewalk so they could avoid wading in the knee-high water. "Welcome to Manila!" we greeted them with a mixture of dismay and glee.

Later that night, we would find out from the TV news that thousands had been stranded in the flash floods, including our son who got home from school past 1 a.m.

FORTUNATELY, our luck held so that by the time we drove out to Pangasinan, the rains had stopped. The sun was out in full force throughout the weekend we spent there, much

to the amazement of the locals who said it had been raining every afternoon.

"This is my favorite beach in the world!" exclaimed Cesi as she dived into the choppy waters off the long, white-sand beach in Barangay Patar, Bolinao. Located a few meters from the town's famous lighthouse, at the end of a narrow muddy road, the beach is isolated and rarely patronized, even if there are already resorts along its length. We discovered it a few years ago, and have made it a point to visit it on every trip.

The next day, Sunday, we took a boat to Hundred Islands, a more familiar destination for generations in our family. Sadly, many of the islands have lost their pristine appeal, and much of the coral has been devastated by dynamite fishing. Careless beachcombers have also left the beaches littered with plastic bottles and trash. I wonder: Where do the fees charged by the islands' keepers go? We stayed at LS Marina in Lucap during our two-night stay, and highly recommend the resort which boasts of air-conditioned cottages and rooms and clean bathrooms. But my nephew Rico lost his disc-player and Gameboy which he kept inside his backpack inside his room. We hope the management does something about this.

Thanks, by the way, to my cousin Lulu who kept all 18 of us fed and nourished, and joined us in our outings. I join her in her hope that the local officials will soon find a solution to the impasse regarding the public market of Alaminos. Since it burned down, the stalls have been relocated to the plaza in front of our ancestral home, turning our once-quiet

street into sheer bedlam.

SOME TIME during the week, we had what we called a "girls'/boys' day out." For "the boys," this consisted mainly of bowling and billiards at Powerbowl at the Power Plant in Rockwell. For the girls, a primping session at a beauty salon. In the evening, the teenagers got together for dinner and movies, while we adults had dinner at Café Juanita in Pasig, a discovery of the hubby's, that we chose mainly for its cozy ambience of local antiques and crafts as well as for the classic "homemade" cuisine.

The next Sunday we drove to the R&R Resort in Pansol, which my friend Mila Alora had long been convincing us to try. I'm glad we decided to finally pay a visit, spending the whole day soaking in both the small, private hot-spring pool beside each cottage, and in the large pools in the public area. The resort also serves lunch, and aside from what we ordered, Becca, the owner, also made us try her *pako* salad, made from native ferns accompanied by a piquant dressing of sardines, vinegar and tomatoes.

OUR final out-of-town trip was to Subic, which Chona had not yet visited and wanted to get a look-see of since some projects submitted to the Global Environment Facility, where she works as a social scientist, are located there. I'll write in greater detail about this visit in a later column.

The rest of the three weeks were given to dinners with friends and relatives and shopping tours, mainly through the Greenhills *tiangge* area where the *balikbayans* reveled not just in the very fashionable but also very reasonably priced garments, but also in the cheap (because pirated) VCDs and even computers.

I took it as a point of pride that despite coming from the ultimate consumerist paradise, our visitors still found the Philippines a haven of shopping pleasure. But of course, more than all these pleasures, there's the bonding with friends and kin to look forward to and that keeps them tied to home and family.

People power and the SSS

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy
David



THE RESIGNATION of Vitaliano Nafagas II as president of the Social Security System has become for many thoughtful Filipinos one more occasion to reflect on the wisdom of people power and to warn against its dangers. The prevalent view is that a reform-minded official has been sacrificed to appease a mob bent on resisting any change at the agency.

This is a serious issue that we may understand better if it is broken down to a series of questions. Did the protesting SSS employees have a right to air their grievances against their new president? Did they behave like a mob? Has it now become more difficult for the government to institute necessary reforms at the SSS and to investigate past instances of corruption because of the replacement of Nafagas? How do we prevent people power from degenerating into mob rule? What lessons does the SSS crisis teach us?

Did the SSS employees have a right to stage a protest? Without going into the validity of their cause, I think the protesting employees were within their constitutional rights to articulate their grievances against the leadership of the organization. The exercise of these rights is protected and regulated by our laws. For instance, they can protest for as long as they do not disrupt the delivery of public service. Government employees take risks when they overstep the limits of these rights.

Did the employees behave like a mob? To call a protest crowd a mob is the best way to discredit it. The label is laden with pejorative connotations but it has little analytical value. A mob is an unruly crowd. The thrust of its movement is anarchic and destructive. No accountable and identifiable leadership coordinates its actions.

None of these elements seem to apply to the SSS protest. The employees held daily pickets during lunch breaks. Their most extreme act was their three-day walkout from their offices, which effectively paralyzed operations. Those who walked out could be held individually liable, but nothing in their behavior conveys the existence of a mob. When they thought they had won, they

went back to their work, even offering to make up for the loss of service hours by working extra over the weekend. These are not the actions of a mob.

Has the ouster of the SSS president as demanded by the union made it more difficult for the government to institute reforms at the agency? This is a possibility, but it will only happen if the government, through the SSS commissioners, allows itself to be taken hostage by its own employees. The new SSS president, Corazon de la Paz, has a mandate from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to improve the delivery of services and protect the interests of SSS members by pursuing necessary reforms and conducting investigations into allegations of corruption. De la Paz's authority is bolstered by this assurance from the President, just as her effectiveness as a leader will be enhanced if she conducts adequate consultations with the staff before she institutes major reforms. The philosophy of consultation is the new element here; it was not part of the old ethos of bureaucracy. It has made the task of leadership a bit more demanding.

How do we prevent people power from degenerating into mob rule? The key lies in the leadership of any popular mobilization. Leaders must take responsibility for the mass actions they initiate. The Edsa III protest crowd degenerated into the Mendiola mob because after whipping the crowd into a state of frenzy, its leaders promptly disappeared. The spirit of people power will often be invoked for the most parochial interests. This does not however diminish the value of the concept. As a rule, mass mobilizations are

difficult to sustain over time; illegitimate uses of people power will by nature tend to have a very short life.

What lessons does the SSS crisis leave us? Public institutions like the SSS are governed by their trustees. These are the commissioners in the case of the SSS. Most of them are directly appointed by the president of the country, while others hold their seats as ex-officio members. Together, they are supposed to represent not only the interests of the SSS members but also of the larger society. Ideally, the internal problems of the SSS should have been settled by the commissioners as a collective body. The appointment in the middle of the crisis of a new chair, a position concurrently held by Nafagas, should have signaled the active intervention of the board in the settlement of the ongoing conflict before it worsened into a virtual strike. But the commissioners chose ominously to be quiet, and Nafagas was basically left alone to defend himself.

At a time like this, the worst thing we could do to ourselves is to start regretting or fearing people power. Surely, it is not an easy time to be in government service. A people newly awakened to the magic of direct collective action as a political weapon will take time to accept the old routines of stable bureaucracies. Some of these bureaucracies are ossified tyrannies; they will have to adjust to the new realities. The executive must learn to respond to mass clamor before it matures into open conflict.

It is true that people power may sometimes be deployed to oppose reforms and to protect entrenched interests within the bureaucracy. In such instances, it will be necessary for the larger public to call the entire institution to task. The flood of editorials and columns decrying the removal of Nafagas from the SSS precisely carries this message. One only wishes the media and leaders of government who now loudly proclaim the need for reform at the SSS had spoken earlier.

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

TALK OF THE TOWN

JOHN NERY, Editor

Please send feedback to opinion@inquirer.com.ph

Who's MAD about the party list?

ONE of the truly dramatic innovations in the 1987 Constitution is the party-list provision, which reserves one-fifth of the seats in the House of Representatives for "marginalized sectors." Over time, however, drama has turned into farce. It wasn't until 1995 that the party-list law (RA 7941) was enacted. The first party-list election in 1998 met an indifferent reception, largely

because of the anemic information campaign of the Commission on Elections; only 14 party-list representatives took their oath. And in 2001, the Comelec accredited 154 groups, only to disqualify 17, including second-placer MAD. To date, almost two months after the election, not one party-list representative has been inducted into office.

A matter of principle

BY SATUR C. OCAMPO
President, Bayan Muna

WHO are the marginalized sectors who—for decades—have been, to say the least, under-represented in Congress, and whom the party-list system aims to enable to gain seats in the House of Representatives?

Who should represent these sectors? The delayed resolution of these questions—which the Commission on Elections should have done before the May 14 elections—has held back the proclamation of the party-list winners. It also underlies the controversy over a July 27, 2001 Comelec "compliance report" to the Supreme Court, which had ordered the Commission on June 26 to determine whether the 154 groups that were allowed to participate in the party-list election had complied with the law.

Using eight guidelines set by the SC, the Comelec conducted hearings and qualified only seven of the 24 parties and organizations it had initially evaluated. It disqualified 17 others, including Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga, or MAD (for having been organized or funded by the government). The latter, in particular, has been loudly protesting against the Comelec, the SC, and even Bayan Muna.

Given the defects in the Comelec evaluation, the issue may not be settled soon. Nonetheless, the qualified participants who won seats in the House, led by Bayan Muna, must now be proclaimed and allowed to fulfill their mandate. There is no legal basis for further delay.

Let's put the matter in perspective. The framers of the 1987 Constitution acknowledged the historical fact of under-representation of the marginalized sectors and introduced the party-list system. They reserved 20 percent of the total membership of the House for the party-list representatives and called for a law to effect this.

Republic Act 7941, enacted in 1995, says the sectors shall include labor, peasant, fisherfolk, urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, elderly, handicapped, women, youth, veterans, overseas workers

and professionals.

To represent these sectors, the law calls for "any organized group of persons" to register with the Comelec as a "national, regional or sectoral party or organization, or a coalition of such parties or organizations" and manifest its desire to participate in the party-list system.

For the May 14 elections, the Comelec registered 154 party-list participants. There arose the issue: which of the 154 should be allowed to participate?

As a matter of principle, we in Bayan Muna aver that the party-list system is limited only to the marginalized and under-represented. To allow non-marginalized groups to participate would undermine, if not frustrate, the intent of the law. On this basis, we challenged the participation of 15 groups for being neither marginalized nor representing the marginalized.

Bayan Muna filed a petition with the Comelec on April 11, 2001 to disqualify the 15 groups. The Comelec failed to act on it. We raised the issue to the Supreme Court.

Because the SC could not hear the petition before the May 14 elections, all the 154 groups were allowed to participate.

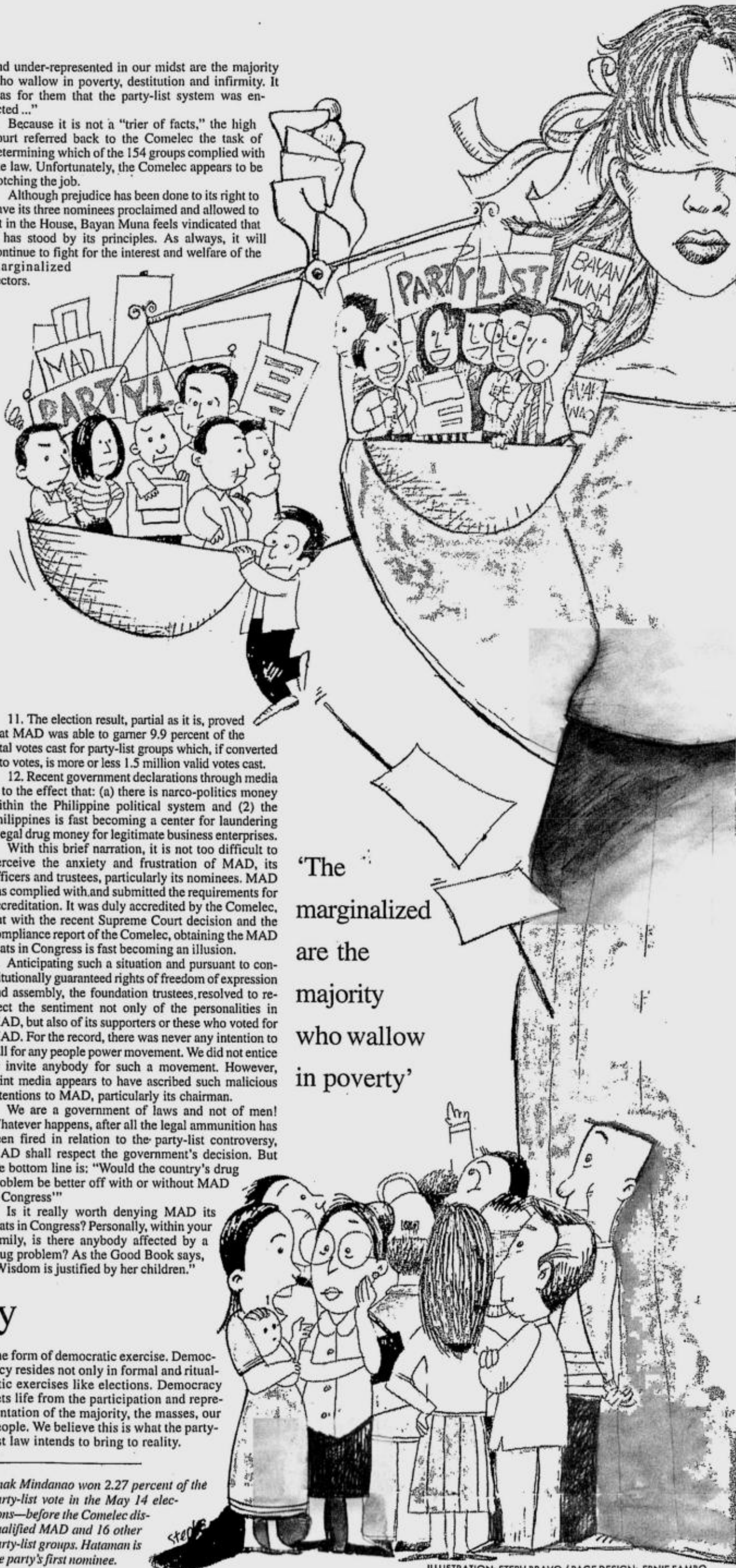
On May 17, the SC heard arguments on the petitions of Bayan Muna and Bagong Bayani-OFW. The decision came on June 26. It upholds our position that the party-list system is limited to the marginalized sectors. And for good measure, the SC says that not only the parties but the nominees, too, must be marginalized.

The SC shot down the claim of the Office of the Solicitor General, which argued for the Comelec, that "even the super-rich and over-represented can participate" in the party-list system. Says the ruling in part: "While the business moguls and the mega-rich are, numerically speaking, a tiny minority, they are neither marginalized nor under-represented, for the stark reality is that their economic clout engenders political power more awesome than their numerical limitation...It is ironic, therefore, that the marginalized

and under-represented in our midst are the majority who wallow in poverty, destitution and infirmity. It was for them that the party-list system was enacted..."

Because it is not a "trier of facts," the high court referred back to the Comelec the task of determining which of the 154 groups complied with the law. Unfortunately, the Comelec appears to be botching the job.

Although prejudice has been done to its right to have its three nominees proclaimed and allowed to sit in the House, Bayan Muna feels vindicated that it has stood by its principles. As always, it will continue to fight for the interest and welfare of the marginalized sectors.



'The marginalized are the majority who wallow in poverty'

A government of laws

BY RICHARD GOMEZ, Chairman
AND CONSTANTINO NAVARRO III,
Corporate Secretary,
Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga

1. MAD is a foundation duly incorporated and recognized by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the MAD movement is the socio-political arm of the foundation.

2. MAD is not a government corporation or project. The MAD movement, which started sometime in the middle of 1999, is a "public awareness program" intended primarily to inform the public, particularly the youth, against the use and inevitable effect of dangerous and prohibited drugs.

3. The illegal drugs situation of the country has necessitated the creation of a specialized body particularly with the legislative department. Existing dangerous drugs laws have to be amended; there are pending bills which remain as such in both houses of Congress. That is, pending. Despite MAD's submission to Congress of the suggested amendments, no particular group of legislators has pushed for the amendment of the said dangerous drugs laws.

4. MAD never had any intention to join the party-list election at its inception. The idea, however, was suggested in the latter part of 2000, in one of the board meetings of the foundation. The unanimous decision of the Board was that if the Comelec allowed and accredited MAD, then it should go for it. MAD was in fact accredited as a sectoral organization.

5. MAD never received funding from the government. It is admitted that MAD coordinated closely with the National Drug Law Enforcement and Prevention Coordinating Center (DEP Center), which is an office created under the Office of the President pursuant to Executive Order No. 61 dated January 15, 1999. It is principally tasked to orchestrate and consolidate the drug enforcement and prevention efforts of all

government agencies. The controversy surrounding the alleged funding of MAD by the government is confused with the DEP Center. MAD and the DEP Center are two and separate entities with separate functions and purposes. The DEP Center does not have the proper personality and facility to fulfill its functions effectively. This is the contribution of MAD. And if the result of the party-list election is to be a gauge, MAD can be called successful.

6. The relationship between MAD and the DEP Center is constitutionally tenable. Article II, Section 23 of the Constitution states: "The State shall encourage non-governmental community-based or sectoral organizations that promote the welfare of the nation."

7. There is no specific prohibition in the existing party-list law (RA 7941) against the relationship between MAD and the DEP Center. What is prohibited under Section 6 (4) of the said law is: "... receiving support from any foreign government, foreign political party, foundation, organization, whether directly or through any of its officers or members or indirectly through third parties for partisan election purposes."

8. There is no legal definition nor requirement of the word "marginalized" in the Constitution and in RA 7941.

9. The billboards around Metro Manila where MAD is advertised together with BeamToothpaste or Motolite Battery, police stations with their telephone numbers, and the Office of the President, did not cause the government any amount—as they were given free of charge by the private entities, specifically BeamToothpaste or Motolite Battery.

10. MAD used foundation funds in the last election within the legal cost allowed by the election laws. For which reason, MAD was able to travel from Luzon to Visayas to Mindanao; personalities involved had to forgo their personal commitments to attend and join the campaign schedules. These were not funded by the government.

11. The election result, partial as it is, proved that MAD was able to garner 9.9 percent of the total votes cast for party-list groups which, if converted into votes, is more or less 1.5 million valid votes cast.

12. Recent government declarations through media is to the effect that: (a) there is narco-politics money within the Philippine political system and (2) the Philippines is fast becoming a center for laundering illegal drug money for legitimate business enterprises.

With this brief narration, it is not too difficult to perceive the anxiety and frustration of MAD, its officers and trustees, particularly its nominees. MAD has complied with and submitted the requirements for accreditation. It was duly accredited by the Comelec, but with the recent Supreme Court decision and the compliance report of the Comelec, obtaining the MAD seats in Congress is fast becoming an illusion.

Anticipating such a situation and pursuant to constitutionally guaranteed rights of freedom of expression and assembly, the foundation trustees, resolved to reflect the sentiment not only of the personalities in MAD, but also of its supporters or those who voted for MAD. For the record, there was never any intention to call for any people power movement. We did not entice or invite anybody for such a movement. However, print media appears to have ascribed such malicious intentions to MAD, particularly its chairman.

We are a government of laws and not of men! Whatever happens, after all the legal ammunition has been fired in relation to the party-list controversy, MAD shall respect the government's decision. But the bottom line is: "Would the country's drug problem be better off with or without MAD in Congress?"

Is it really worth denying MAD its seats in Congress? Personally, within your family, is there anybody affected by a drug problem? As the Good Book says, "Wisdom is justified by her children."

One democratic exercise, among many

BY MUJIV S. HATAMAN
Anak Mindanao

ANAK Mindanao considers the Supreme Court ruling a landmark decision. It gives life to the very spirit that the party-list law was founded upon—giving the marginalized and the under-represented a chance to have representation in Congress. In a way, it can be considered a step toward electoral reform.

AMIN believes, however, that the party-list law must be amended—to make it clearer and more explicit in its terms, to reflect in words and spirit its true intentions. Because of its ambiguities and deficiencies in providing clear guidelines regarding its implementation, the controversy arose. The

issue revolves around the interpretation of the party-list law.

It is unfortunate, but this task must have been done by those party-list groups who served during the 11th Congress, because nothing has been done to improve the law. It became subject to abuse by groups who see the party list as an opportunity to enrich themselves and hold power.

But beyond the legalistic hullabaloo in the present party-list controversy, what is important is that the party-list law has now shifted toward its true direction. What is being put in the forefront is the issue of democracy.

What is at stake here is the future of Philippine democracy. AMIN believes that elections are only

one form of democratic exercise. Democracy resides not only in formal and ritualistic exercises like elections. Democracy gets life from the participation and representation of the majority, the masses, our people. We believe this is what the party-list law intends to bring to reality.

Anak Mindanao won 2.27 percent of the party-list vote in the May 14 elections—before the Comelec disqualified MAD and 16 other party-list groups. Hataman is the party's first nominee.

Talking points

WE asked our three respondents the same question—What is at stake in the party-list cases?—and got three different responses. Make that three different kinds of response: journalistic, lawyerly, corporate.

Let's start with the last. Anak Mindanao is a new organization—one long overdue, to be sure—and its response reflects the tentativeness of the first-timer. In its apparent unwillingness to use the spe-

cific instance, the vivid detail, it produced an article that could have been written by committee.

Consider the following: "(The law) became subject to abuse by groups who see the party list as an opportunity to enrich themselves and hold power." End of idea. A subject that could have led to a burst of inspired eloquence (anger is the best style, the classicists say) stops as soon as it starts. None of the groups are named; none of the

abuses detailed.

The charitable view here is that Mr. Hataman, mindful that he was flexing his muscles on the national stage for the first time, preferred to err on the side of prudence.

The controversial Mr. Gomez, who co-wrote the MAD statement with the organization's corporate secretary, preferred to take the lawyerly route. The article is akin to what lawyers call a stipulation of facts, an enumeration of details to

which all parties agree, and on which judgment is based.

It may not make for easy reading on first look, but it is possible the rhetorical strategy Messrs. Gomez and Navarro chose was dictated by the highly charged circumstances they now find themselves in. Living through such an emotionally turbulent time, they might have thought raising the discussion to a dry plane was in their best interest.

This is not to say that emotion does not enter into the discussion. Indeed, the enumeration allows them to introduce the personal touch: "With this brief narration, it is not too difficult to perceive the anxiety and frustration of MAD, its officers and trustees, particularly its nominees." Of course, it would have been more personal if the line were written in the active voice, not the passive.

The clearest argument to follow

is Mr. Ocampo's. Trained as a newspaperman, he shows a sure grasp of what needs to be said and how to say it, mixing the general with the specific, the legal-speak ("the high court referred back to the Comelec the task of determining which of the 154 groups complied with the law") with plain speaking ("Unfortunately, the Comelec appears to be botching the job"). On that last point, it seems all parties will agree.

J. Nery

The WORLD

LUVIERE B. GUECO, EDITOR



NORTH Korean Leader Kim Jong-il (right) shakes hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin during their meeting at the Kremlin Aug. 4. Kim arrived in Moscow on Friday after a nine-day train ride across Siberia.

REUTERS

Economy, not missiles, focus of Kremlin talks

MOSCOW—After a nine-day train trek across Russia, North Korean leader Kim Jong-il meets President Vladimir Putin on Saturday, with regional stability and economic ties the stated focus, not Pyongyang's ballistic missile ambitions. On arrival in Moscow late on Friday, Pyongyang's Dear Leader abandoned his 21-carriage armored train and swept into the Kremlin in a Soviet-era Zil limousine.

After spending the night in the same suite occupied by his father Kim Il-sung in 1984, the younger Kim will pay his respects to Lenin's mummy in Red Square before meeting Putin.

On Sunday Kim is scheduled to visit Russia's mission control center and the Khronichev space technology firm, both near Moscow, before heading for Russia's second city, St. Petersburg.

Kim's trips to arms and space-related facilities will do little to allay US concerns about Pyongyang modernizing its Soviet-equipped armed forces, and its proliferation of ballistic missile know-how to nuclear threshold states.

North Korea tops the list of "rogue states" drawn up by Washington to justify its desire to build a multibillion-dollar rocket shield. Russia says the plan would wreck three decades of arms control and start a costly new arms race.

Russian officials have not ruled out an arms deal over the weekend, and Kim stopped off at a tank factory in the Siberian city of Omsk en route to Moscow.

But officials have been more voluble about involving Kim's Stalinist North Korea in opening up gas and trade links to the booming economy of capitalist South Korea.

Reuters

Deluge swamps North Korea after drought

SEOUL, South Korea—Torrential rains killed or injured scores of people and caused tens of billions of dollars in damages in North Korea, which is already suffering severe food shortages, the country's official news agency said Saturday.

Damage estimates could increase as communist authorities try to rebuild roads and communications lines cut off from remote areas, said North Korea's official news agency, KCNA, which was monitored in Seoul.

North Korea is one of the world's most isolated countries, and it was impossible to independently confirm the KCNA report.

The new damage, which followed a prolonged drought earlier this year, worsened the plight of the impoverished communist country, which has suffered from floods, drought and other natural disasters since 1995 and is now depending on international handouts to feed its 22 million people.

North Korea's southwestern farm belts in Hwanghae provinces and its southeastern Kangwon province have received 50 to 70 percent of their average annual rainfall in the five days from July 27 alone, the report said.

Some towns in those areas received up to 66.1 centimeters (26.4 inches) of rain during that period, it said.

The downpours caused landslides that destroyed many homes and floods that left whole townships submerged under 1.5-meter water.

More than 24,000 hectares of arable land and thousands of apartments and hundreds of public buildings were submerged or destroyed, it said. Over 10,000 people lost their shelter.

"Harvest is hardly expected from those fields," KCNA said.

North Korea had reported earlier this year that drought and heat waves were destroying its crops.

Didier Cherpitel, secretary general of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, met the North's ceremonial head of state, Kim Yong-nam, on Friday to discuss humanitarian aid, KCNA said in another dispatch monitored in Seoul.

AP

London police warn against repeat bombing

LONDON—Anti-terrorist police in Britain stepped up the hunt Friday for a dissident Irish group blamed for a car bomb attack in west London that injured 11 people, sowing efforts to resolve the crisis in the Northern Ireland peace process.

Senior officers said it was "a completely reckless terrorist attack" which had clearly been intended "to kill or maim."

They appealed for people to be extra vigilant against a repeat attack at a testing time for the province, where parties are debating a make-or-break plan floated by the London and Dublin governments to rescue the peace process.

Alan Fry, head of the Metropolitan Police's anti-terrorist wing, blamed the incident on the Real IRA, which opposes the peace efforts.

Fry said: "This was a calculated evil act by people who are seeking to maim and kill."

"It is fortunate indeed that we are not dealing with mass murder."

The device exploded 20 seconds after midnight near two busy pubs and the underground railway station in the center of suburban Ealing.

Witnesses described a huge bang, a roll of flame, and then a shock wave and showers of glass and debris. Ealing hospital said a total of 11 people were treated for shrapnel wounds, cuts and bruises, updating the earlier figure of six.

None had life-threatening injuries, but three remained in hospital.

Fry said the grey Saab turbo car had been bought in Ilford, east London, on July 19 by a man with a "soft" Northern Irish accent who paid 425 pounds (\$600) cash.

Bizarrely, police examined the car earlier this week after it was reported abandoned in southwest London, but took no action because it was not recorded as stolen and there was no reason to suspect terrorism.

Fry said police at the bomb scene discovered fragments of blue plastic from a barrel-like container similar to that used in previous attacks.

"This was a calculated act by evil, determined terrorists who were seeking to maim and kill," he told a press conference.

Assistant Commissioner David Veness said the Real IRA was behind more than 30 incidents in Britain and Northern Ireland since February last year.

AFP

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'Code Red' augurs more cyber threats, experts say

SAN FRANCISCO—The "Code Red" worm may have failed to live up to its formidable advance billing, but secu-

rity experts said on Friday that the malicious program foreshadows much more devastating Internet threats to come.

What makes "Code Red" a striking evolutionary advance from prior worms and viruses was its combination of

two different types of computer attacks: the self-propagation of worms and the automation of denial of service

attacks, experts said. "This is not an anomaly," said Bruce Schneier, chief technology officer of Counter-

pane Internet Security, a network monitoring firm. "It's the shape of things to come." Eventually, hackers

will figure out a way to target more critical components of the Internet, like routers and equipment that supports the

backbone of the network, not just the servers that host websites, Schneier and other experts said.

They also will write worms that do more damage to the computers they infect, said Chad Harrington, senior product manager at Entercept Security Technologies, which makes software that protects computer networks.

"The 'Code Red' worm didn't do a lot as far as malicious activity," Harrington said. "However, a hacker could take that recipe and create another worm that could do more harm, like reformat computers and steal credit card numbers."

The initial version of "Code Red" defaced websites hosted by infected computers and then forced the computers to launch a concerted attack against the White House's website (<http://www.whitehouse.gov>).

The White House was able to change the numeric Internet address for its site and dodge the denial of service attack, in which a website is bombarded with so many requests for information that its normal operations are effectively crippled.

"Code Red's" impact tapered off on Friday.

At its peak on Wednesday, an estimated 21,000 infected computers were scanning the Internet each hour looking for new victims, according to statistics gathered by the Systems Administration, Networking and Security Institute (<http://www.incidents.org>). By Friday evening that number had dropped to about 3,000 computers, SANS said.

That tally could overstate the scale of infection, because so many of the computers being scanned were dial-up and digital subscriber line machines which get a new numeric Internet address every time they access the Web, said Alan Paller of SANS. Reuters

PMMA ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

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- Free from being accused or convicted of any crime against the law and the state;
- At least 17 but not more than 22 years old by June of the coming year;
(Note: applicant will be disqualified if he/she is already 22 years old before 01 June of the coming year.);
- At least high school graduate qualified to enroll in a four year course or graduating from high school in March of the coming year;
- At least 162.5 centimeters (5 ft. & 4 in.) weighs 55 kgs. (122 lbs.) stripped for male; and 157.5 centimeters (5 ft. & 2 in.) weighs 50 kgs. (110 lbs.) stripped for female;
- Above average academic performance and preferably has taken Trigonometry in High School;
- Has never been previously enrolled in PMMA

Filing Requirements:

- The application form should be duly accomplished by the applicant and submit or mail it to the Committee on Admissions together with the following requirements:
 - 4 copies of recent 2 x 2 colored pictures with nameplate, front view;
 - Examination fee of three hundred pesos (P300.00) in cash or postal money order payable to the PMMA Committee on Admissions (if application is filed through mail, only postal money order will be accepted);
 - Certified true copy of Birth Certificate issued by the Civil Registrar; (Xerox Copy Only.)
- Note: Baptismal and Hospital Birth Certificates are not honored
- 2 pcs. self-addressed envelopes with mailing stamps (P15.00) each

Application forms are also available at the PMMA Graduate School in Philippine Coast Guard located at 139 25th Street, Port Area, Manila (at the back of Manila Hotel) and at all DECS Regional/Divisional/City Offices.

For further inquiries, please contact the CHAIRMAN, Committee on Admission; PMMA Complex, San Narciso, Zambales 2205 at Tel# (047) 913-4396 loc. 2049.

**Deadline for submission of application forms
POSTMARKED OCTOBER 31, 2001.**

PMMA (EE) APPLICATION FORM

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PRESENT MAILING ADDRESS		
Sex: _____	Height(cm): _____	Weight: _____ Date of Birth: _____ (Day Month Year)

HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT:	NAME AND ADDRESS OF SCHOOL
_____ High School Senior	_____
_____ High School Graduate	_____
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Select from the list of testing centers below the testing center code of your preferred testing place and write it in the box provided.		TESTING CENTER CODE:	
CODE	TESTING CENTER	CODE	TESTING CENTER
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02	NCR (PASIG CITY) (Rizal H.S. (Main) Dr. Antonio Ave.)	17	LA UNION (La Union Nat'l High School, San Fernando)
03	AGUSAN DEL NORTE (Agusan Nat'l H.S., Butuan City)	18	LAGUNA (Pedro Guevarra Alon T. H.S., Sta. Cruz)
04	ALBAY (Pagasa National High School, Legaspi City)	19	LANAO DEL NORTE (Iligan City Nat'l H.S.)
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06	BATANGAS (Batangas Nat'l H.S., Batangas City)	21	LUCENA CITY (Quezon Nat'l H.S., Iyam)
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11	CAVITE (Ima Nat'l High School, Imus)	26	PALAWAN (Palawan Nat'l H.S., Puerto Princesa City)
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Canada to US: Dump plan to drill for oil in Arctic

TORONTO—Canada's environment minister on Friday said he was disappointed with the US House of Representatives' approval to open up

Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil and gas exploration. The US House of Representatives early Thursday approved an

amendment to an energy bill that allows for oil and gas drilling in ANWR on some 800 hectares of the 7.7-million-hectare wildlife refuge.

"Canada's view on drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain is simple: both countries should provide permanent protection

for the important wildlife populations shared between Canada and the United States," said Minister David Anderson.

While Ottawa supports some development activities in habitats that are not critical to wildlife, the ANWR zone proposed to be opened to exploration is an important calving area for Porcupine caribou herds, which the indigenous Gwich'in people depend on for their survival, he added.

"Canada is convinced that only permanent protection of the plain will assure the herd's long-term sustainability," Anderson said, reiterating Ottawa's long-time opposition to oil and exploration in ANWR. **AFP**



Canadian Immigration Lawyer

Atty. Bayani F. Abesamis, Barrister and Solicitor, is the only Canadian immigration lawyer maintaining a full-time office in the Philippines. Through his Makati office, Atty. Abesamis provides direct, personal services on Canadian immigration law such as family sponsorships, skilled worker and business applications, visitor visas, visa refusal reconsiderations, judicial reviews and appeals.

Atty. Abesamis will be conducting a series of seminars on Canadian immigration law on August 9, 11, 14, 16, 18, 21, 23 and 25, 2001.

To schedule an appointment or to register for the seminars, please call 813 3482 or 817 2397

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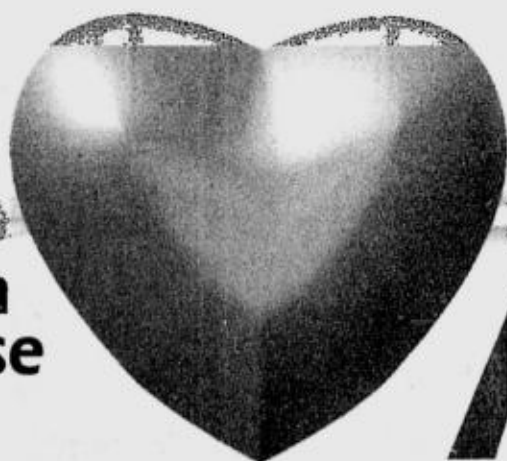
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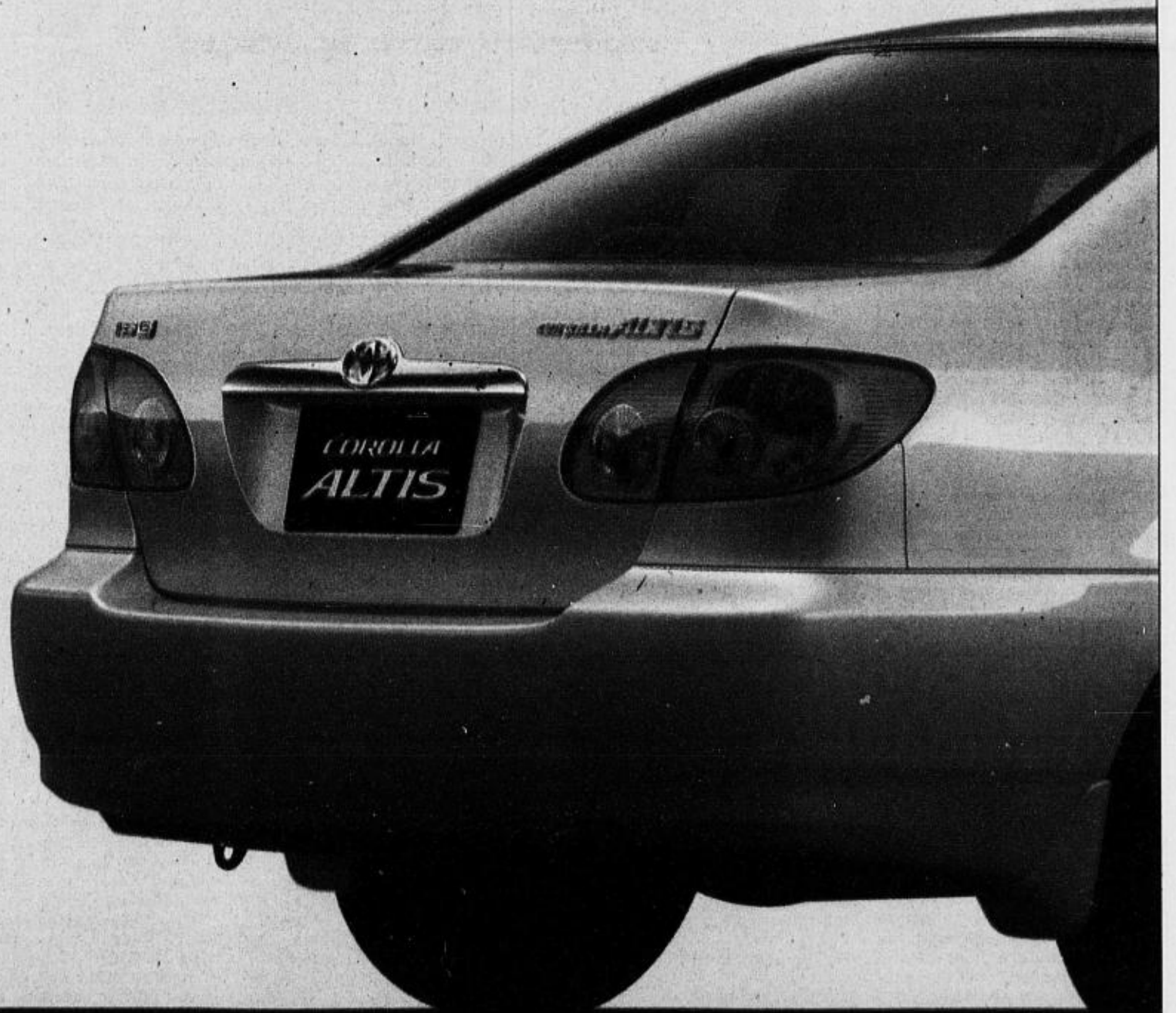
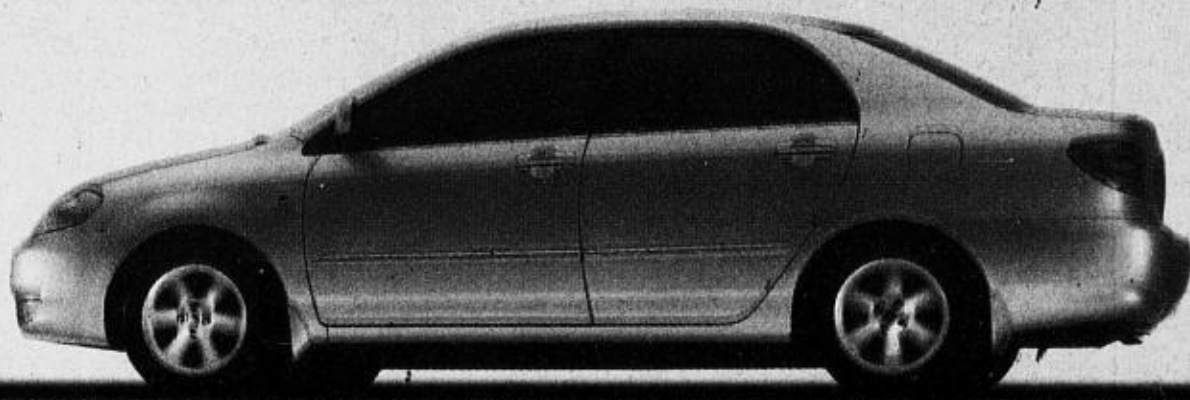
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 **TOYOTA**

Thaksin, cleared of graft charges, promises reforms

BANGKOK—Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, cleared of graft charges that threatened to force him from power, vowed on Saturday to work flat out to solve Thailand's problems but warned this would include some painful reform.

"The case caused Thailand to waste time and to hang in uncertainty for some time," Thaksin said in a regular weekly radio address to the nation. "But now the uncertainty has gone."

The Constitutional Court ruled by eight votes to seven on Friday that the former telecoms tycoon was not guilty of deliberately trying to

conceal some of his wealth.

Thaksin had always denied wrongdoing, saying his failure to declare some of his assets was an "honest mistake." If found guilty, he would have faced a five-year ban from politics.

Thaksin headed for the seaside resort town Pattaya on Saturday to chair a seminar on reforming Thailand's bureaucracy.

"The government will run at full steam to change things that have caused damage to the country," Thaksin said.

"Certainly, the surgery will be painful but in the longer term we will be stronger. And I will carry out the

surgery when the patient agrees to it."

Thaksin swept to power with a landslide victory in a general election in January and retained strong popular support during the Constitutional Court hearings. The court's decision was greeted with widespread relief.

But newspapers said that while the verdict had been widely welcomed, the written decisions of the judges should be released as soon as possible to dispel any suspicions that the verdict could have been influenced by political pressure.

"Despite the feeling of euphoria and relief by the majority, a black

cloud of uncertainty still hangs over the rule of law under the new constitution," the Bangkok Post said in a front-page editorial.

"This country and its people have fought long and hard through the decades for a better and more transparent political system where the rule of law prevails over and above that of the individual, no matter who that person may be."

Traditionally, the Constitutional Court issues written explanations of its decisions, but the reasoning behind the ruling on Thaksin has not yet been released.

Reuters



THAKSIN

US extends Iran, Libya sanctions

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush on Friday signed a five-year extension of sanctions against Libya and Iran designed to curb foreign investment in their oil and gas sectors.

In a statement, Bush said his administration shared Congress' concerns about the "objectionable policies and behavior of Iran and Libya."

"We are addressing these concerns in a number of ways," he said. "In particular, we are strengthening our efforts with other countries, whose cooperation is essential to pursuing the most effective approaches to solving the problems of proliferation and terrorism addressed by (the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act)."

The US Senate last week approved a five-year extension of the sanctions against the two countries. The measure would allow the president to assess a variety of penalties on any foreign firm that invests more than \$20 million in the energy sector of either country.

Bush said in the statement he wanted a more frequent review of sanctions, to better assess their effectiveness.

Reuters

Bosnia's Serbs pressed to deliver Karadzic, Mladic

SARAJEVO—Bosnian Serb authorities came under renewed pressure Friday to surrender top war crime suspects Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic after Bosnian Muslim leaders detained three generals to face a UN court in The Hague.

Karadzic, Bosnian Serb leader during the 1992-95 Bosnian war, and his top general Mladic have been indicted

on charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity for their alleged role in the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, when more than 7,000 Muslims were murdered.

On Thursday the UN tribunal sentenced a Bosnian Serb general, Radislav Krstic, to 46 years' jail for genocide for his part in the killing spree.

Retired generals Mehmed Alagic

and Enver Hadzhasanovic and Brigadier Amir Kubura of the Bosnian Muslim army surrendered Thursday after being served warrants from the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

Their arrest has piled pressure on post-war Bosnia's Serb entity, Republika Srpska, widely believed to be sheltering several of the

court's most wanted suspects.

Beriz Belkic, the Muslim member of Bosnia's joint presidency, said: "I appreciate that the authorities of the Muslim-Croat Federation acted in accordance with The Hague's request for the three generals."

"I hope that the Republika Srpska authorities will start acting in the same way."

The arrest of the Muslim officers intensifies the spotlight on Republika Srpska, whose leaders insist on an equal share of responsibility for wartime abuses among Bosnia's three ethnic communities—Croats, Muslims and Serbs.

While welcoming the detention of the three Muslims, Bosnian Serb officials remained defiant.

AFP

Diana kin seek court action

MELBOURNE—The family of Britain's late Princess Diana is seeking an Australian court order banning a London-based charity from using her name to sell roses, media reports said Saturday.

Princess Diana's mother, Frances Shand Kydd, and her sister, Lady Sarah McCorquodale, used the pseudonym Ruth Harrison to file a claim seeking to block the Royal National Rose Society from exploiting the princess's name, Melbourne's Herald Sun newspaper reported.

According to the report, the charity hoped to raise tens of millions of dollars for a 20-hectare memorial garden next to its St Albans headquarters, north of London, through Internet sales of flowers marketed under the trademark "Diana's Legacy in Roses."

The Herald Sun report said the Queen Mother is the society's patron.

It also said Diana's family is now appealing in the Federal Court against a decision by the Australian Trade Marks Office to grant a trademark for Diana's Legacy in Roses to American businesswoman, Bonnie Masterson.

Masterson is also the charity's vice-patron.

Her lawyer, Richard Aarons, told the Herald Sun the scheme was supported by Diana's ex-husband Prince Charles as well as the Queen and the Queen Mother.

He said the late princess's family opposed the trademark registration on the grounds that Diana's surviving relatives, as inheritors of her estate, own all intellectual property associated with her.

"The creation of this garden as a memorial to Princess Diana is a goal our client wants to achieve," Aarons said.

The Australian trademark, granted on May 31, was the first in what was intended to become a global network of similar registrations under which roses would be sold in the princess's name.

Another hearing before the Federal Court has been scheduled for February next year.

AFP



ISRAELI soldiers point their rifles at Palestinian stone throwers during clashes in the West Bank city of Hebron Aug. 3. Thousands of Israeli police officers imposed strict controls on Jerusalem to head off possible clashes at an Old City holy site where a Palestinian uprising erupted 10 months ago.

Reuters

Palestinians: Pressure, more than words, needed

GAZA CITY—The Palestinian Authority warned Saturday that the Middle East could face a major military escalation if the international community does not pressure Israel to accept international observers to monitor the conflict in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Despite mounting criticism of Israel's tactic of killing Palestinian militants seen as a security threat, the Palestinian Authority said words were not enough to end the spiraling unrest.

"More denunciations by the international community of the Israeli government's policy and its military escalation against our people...will certainly lead to a destabilization of the region," the Palestinian leadership said in a statement after an overnight meeting in Gaza.

The meeting, chaired by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, concluded that the best way of implementing the internationally backed Mitchell peace plan would be to deploy international observers to the Palestinian territories.

The plan, drawn up by a panel

headed by former US Sen. George Mitchell, calls for a ceasefire followed by a six-week "cooling off" period, with confidence-building measures to restore some of the trust shattered by 10 months of violence.

Israel has opposed the sending of international observers, saying they would not help stem the unrest and would only internationalize a conflict it believes should be dealt with between the parties involved.

The Palestinians said "Israel is mistaken in thinking it can overcome the Palestinian struggle for freedom and independence by killing leaders" of Arafat's Fatah movement and the hardline Islamic groups Hamas and Jihad.

The Israeli army killed six Hamas activists, including two senior members, in a helicopter raid in the West Bank town of Nablus on Tuesday. That strike also left two young boys dead and drew strong international condemnation and Palestinian calls for vengeance.

AFP

US now says it does not support 'targeted killings'

WASHINGTON—The White House on Friday denied any US support for Israel's "targeted killings" of suspected Palestinian terrorists a day after Vice President Dick Cheney said Israel had "some justification" for doing so.

Spokesperson Ari Fleischer sought to clarify Cheney's comments that bitterly angered Palestinians and complained that the vice president's words had been taken out of context.

"What the vice president was reflecting on is how both parties see justification in the actions they take. It is the policy of the

United States to oppose these killings," spokesperson Ari Fleischer told reporters.

"What the vice president was suggesting is Israel sees justification for their actions. The Palestinians see a justification for their actions."

In an interview with the Fox News Channel on Thursday, Cheney was asked about the controversial policy, which drew international condemnation—led by the United States—after a raid Tuesday claimed the lives of left two young boys and sent tensions between Israel and the Palestinians to new heights.

"In Israel, what they've done, of course, over the years, occasionally,

in an effort to preempt terrorist activities, is to go after the terrorists. And in some cases, I suppose, by their lights it is justified," Cheney replied.

"If you've got an organization that has plotted or is plotting some kind of suicide bomber attack, for example, and they have hard evidence of who it is and where they're located, I think there's some justification in their trying to protect themselves by preempting," he added.

"Clearly, it would be better if they could work with the Palestinians and the Palestinian Authority and the terrorists of whatever stripe could be headed off and imprisoned and tried, rather than having them actually

assassinated," he said.

Israeli forces on Tuesday struck the West Bank town of Nablus, killing six members of the militant Palestinian group Hamas as well as two young boys, whose mother was visiting a clinic in the building where Hamas had its office.

The raid drew international condemnation, including from the US State Department, where spokesperson Richard Boucher declared: "We're against this practice of targeted killings and we're against this particular attack."

On Friday, a top Palestinian official told AFP that the vice president had effectively encouraged Israeli "assassi-

nations" with his comments.

"Cheney's remarks certainly do not serve the peace process but rather encourage Israel to continue acts of killing and assassinations. Such policy would only lead to explosion across the region," said Nabil Abu Rudeina, a senior adviser to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Cheney's comment surprised Ali Abunimah, vice president of the Washington-based Arab-American Action Network who said they gave Israel "if not a green light, at least the orange light" to assassinate Palestinians.

AFP

Koizumi plan to visit war shrine giving him headache

TOKYO—In the arcane world of Japanese domestic politics, it made perfect sense: a new premier opposed by conservatives tries to placate his foes by appealing to nationalist sentiment.

But Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's pledge to pay respects to Japan's war dead at a shrine that also honors executed war criminals is turning out to be a major headache.

And as criticism—domestic and international—of the proposed Aug. 15 visit heightens and Koizumi appears to waver, many in Japan are wondering if he will

make good on his pledge.

The proposed visit to Yasukuni Shrine has riled China and South Korea, strained Koizumi's relationship with his most popular minister, and turned into a daily topic at government press conferences and in the media.

The prime minister is being increasingly coy.

"I'm giving it some serious thought," was all that Koizumi would say to reporters Friday while meeting with members of his coalition in the upper house of Parliament.

It's difficult to tell whether

Koizumi's indecisive comments about plans to go to the shrine are aimed at mollifying critics or indicate a true change of heart.

"He made that decision based on his gut sense," said Ronald Morse, an expert in Japanese politics at the University of Southern California at Los Angeles. "But now, of course, he's prime minister and he's trying to be diplomatic."

But one thing is certain: the choice will not be an easy one. If he goes to Yasukuni, he risks alienating Asian neighbors just as ties are expanding. But a reversal could be seen as giv-

ing in to foreign pressure.

When Koizumi took power in April, he boldly told reporters that he would go to Yasukuni on the 56th anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II.

The decision was rooted in his nationalist views, but it was also a political calculation. With many of his reformist economic policies opposed by his Liberal Democratic Party, Koizumi needed a position that would appeal to the party's conservative wing.

But it also rang alarm bells in China and South Korea.

The shrine was used to encourage militarist fervor before and during the war, and among the 2.6 million Japanese war dead enshrined there are executed war criminals, including wartime Prime Minister Hideki Tojo.

China, South Korea and other Asian nations see a visit there by a prime minister as official homage to Tokyo's war of aggression in the region.

South Korea has requested that Tokyo remove the names of Koreans enshrined there, and Beijing has suggested that a visit could damage ties with Tokyo.

AP

Montesinos wants CIA testimony

LIMA, Peru—Captured ex-intelligence chief Vladimiro Montesinos wants two CIA agents to testify on his behalf against charges that he masterminded a clandestine arms pipeline to Colombian guerrillas, an anti-corruption judge said Friday.

Judge Jimeha Cayo said Montesinos' court-appointed lawyer gave her the names of two CIA agents who the former spy master claims will swear that he had nothing to do with a smuggling ring that parachuted at least 10,000 assault rifles to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

She said Montesinos maintained that the CIA agents, whose names she declined to reveal, went to Montesinos' headquarters "to tell him that they had discovered the arms trafficking between Peru and Colombia."

Cayo said Montesinos' position is that if he had been involved in the arms trafficking, the CIA would not have told him about it.

No formal request had yet been made to obtain sworn statements from the CIA or the two agents, she said.

Montesinos' lawyer, Gloria Aguero, could not immediately be reached for comment. An official at the US Embassy declined to comment.

AP

Mahathir: National security more important than freedoms

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Saturday criticized a call by the human rights commission for greater freedom of expression, saying it ignored national security concerns.

The official Human Rights Commission of Malaysia, known by its local acronym Suhakam, proposed setting up British-style "Speakers' Corners" and relaxing controls on rallies in a report released Friday.

"Suhakam seems to be setting up standards of their own. They are not interested in national security," Mahathir told a news conference.

"Suhakam is just one group of people but the majority of the people, their interests have to be taken into consideration. They are free to give suggestions but it doesn't mean we have to follow them."

Mahathir said Malaysia already enjoyed greater freedom of expression than in many countries, benefiting opposition groups such as the Parti Islam SeMalaysia (PAS) and Democratic Action Party (DAP).

"We think that in this country there is more freedom than in many other countries, including some of the developed countries," Mahathir said.

"You see so many PAS members, DAP members shouting in parliament. In other countries, they would have been arrested."

In its 32-page report, Suhakam urged authorities not to view public assemblies as "intrinsically dangerous" and described them as a "healthy way" to air dissent.

Commissioner Mehruun Siraj has described a police ban on public rallies imposed two weeks ago as an "undue restriction" on free speech and urged the government to prove that such rallies threaten national security.

AFP



PRIME Minister Mahathir Mohamad delivers a speech in front of the Malaysian Chinese Association logo during the group's general assembly in Kuala Lumpur Aug. 4.

AP

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

11 more die of dengue in Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—The number of people reported to have died or fallen ill of dengue fever continues to rise in Luzon and the Visayas.

Eleven people, most of them children, have died and more than 1,700 were afflicted with the disease in Central Luzon and Ilocos Sur in the last seven months, health officials said Friday.

The number could be higher as the reports came only from government hospitals, they said.

Dr. Ric Tayag, assistant health director in Central Luzon, said nine children died of shock and severe hemorrhage after contracting the disease.

In Negros Occidental and Bacolod City, 712 cases were reported as of Friday, or 219 cases more compared with the 493 last week.

Tayag said Nueva Ecija recorded the highest number of dengue cases with 672 victims, followed by Bulacan with 290; Tarlac, 192; Bataan, 170; Zambales, 134; and Pampanga, 104.

Three of the children fatalities were from Nueva Ecija while two each were from Bulacan, Tarlac and Pampanga.

In Ilocos Sur, the provincial health office reported that two people have died while 199 others have been afflicted with dengue fever in the province this year.

Rogelio Varilla, assistant head of the dengue control program of the provincial health office, identified the fatalities as Beverly Amano of Barangay Aysan Norte in Vigan City and Marife Rapisura of Barangay Calaoan in Sta. Catalina town.

Health officials said dengue cases this year were much higher than the 54 cases and one fatality recorded last year.

"We have already intensified our (anti-dengue) campaign with the arrival of chemicals for fogging from the regional health office," Varilla said.

In Bacolod City, the number of persons afflicted rose from 355 to 492 after 137 new cases were reported from July 27 to Aug. 3, said Warlito Vallente of the statistics office of the City Health Office.

In Negros Occidental, dengue cases rose to 220 from 132 after 82 new cases were received during the eight-day period, said Dr. Ernesto Malvas, Negros Occidental provincial health officer.

Malvas identified the affected cities as Silay, 31 cases; Sagay, 25; Talisay, 20; Kabankalan, 19; Victorias, 19; Bago, 18; Cadiz, 16; Sipalay City, 3; La Carlota, 3; and San Carlos City, 8.

In Isabela town, 11 cases were reported; La Castellana, 6; Toboso, 5; Ilog, 4; Pulupandan, 4; La Binalbagan, 3; EB Magalona, 3; Hinigaran, 3; Manapla, 3; Calatrava, 2; Cauayan, 2; Hinobaan, 2; Moises Padilla, 2; San Enrique, 2; Salvador Benedicto, 2; Valladolid, 2; Candoni, 1; and Himamaylan, 1.

In Bohol, the provincial health office had recorded 168 dengue cases in the capital Tagbilaran City and in 30 towns as of July 21.

Dr. Francisco Razalo, provincial health officer, also noted a steady increase in the number of towns where dengue incidence was reported.

From only 12 in January, one town each was added in February and March. By April, dengue was monitored in 21 towns with four more added in May.

In June, 28 towns were reported to have dengue cases and two more were added before the end of July. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk and Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Carla Gomez and Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau*



VEHICLES cross the Abra River by ferry boat from the foot of the Quirino Bridge in Santa, Ilocos Sur, following the collapse of a span at the height of Typhoon "Feria."

LEONCIO BALBIN JR.

'Feria' uprooted 2,600 trees in Abra

BAGUIO CITY—More than 2,600 trees came rampaging along the Abra River during last month's onslaught of Typhoon "Feria," according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The trees, which were swept away by the river current, caused the destruction of the Quirino Bridge in downstream Santa, Ilocos Sur.

A report released by the DENR Cordillera said 2,629 trees were uprooted from the forests of Abra. About

250 logs with a total volume of 269 cubic meters were fished out of the Abra River.

Roquesa de Castro, DENR regional director, said the town of Danglas was the most affected by the typhoon in Abra.

Massive landslide in the mountainous part of Barangay Nagaparan there uprooted 2,563 trees. Total volume of the uprooted trees reached 1,646 cubic meters.

The trees were brought down by

landslide to the Soot River and into the Abra River, where they knocked down the middle span of the Quirino Bridge, a major link of southern Ilocos Sur to the rest of the province and to Ilocos Norte.

Public Works officials earlier said the repair of the bridge would take eight months.

Sixty-six trees from the Casamata Hill near Bangued, Abra, were also uprooted by Feria. The typhoon destroyed the DENR view deck and radio antenna in the town.

Casamata Hill is the favorite picnic ground of Abrenos.

Abra Gov. Vicente Valera denied reports that the logjam in the river was caused by illegal logging in the province.

He said Feria was so strong that landslides were inevitable.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who visited Abra two weeks ago, blamed deforestation for the destruction of the Quirino Bridge, as well as the flooding in many parts of Baguio City. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



EVEREADY



WARNING ON FAKE EVEREADY BATTERIES

On June 04 2001, four teams from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) served Search Warrants on and raided four establishments in Quiapo, Manila which were suspected of selling fake Eveready Size "AA" No.1215 (black) Batteries. These establishments are:

- 1) DONG SHENG GEN. MERCHANDISE owned and operated by REMY MOLINA Stall Nos. B-31 to B-33, Carriedo Center, Quiapo, Manila.
- 2) I-42 ENTERPRISES / PHILIPPINE XING XIN TRADING AND GENERAL MERCHANDISE owned and operated by MANUEL CUBILLA. Stall No. B-34, Carriedo Center, Quiapo, Manila.
- 3) STALL B-36/B-37 OF CARRIEDO CENTER, Quiapo, Manila, owned and operated by JUSTIN TANG and SHIELA TANG.
- 4) STALL B-38 of CARRIEDO CENTER, Quiapo, Manila, owned and operated by SHARMAINE CHUA.

The NBI agents were able to seize a total of 42,432 fake Size "AA" No.1215 Eveready Batteries (black) from the above-mentioned stores.

ENERGIZER PHILIPPINES, INC., the authorized manufacturer, importer and distributor of Eveready batteries shall be filing criminal charges against these establishments and their respective owners and proprietors. They shall be prosecuted for violating the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines and if convicted, they face the penalty imposed by law which is imprisonment from two (2) years to five (5) years AND a fine ranging from P50,000.00 to P200,000.00.

ENERGIZER further warns all the other establishments committing such illegal acts of importation, manufacture and sale/distribution of fake Eveready and Energizer products to cease and desist from doing so, lest they too, shall be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

PLATON MARTINEZ FLORES
SAN PEDRO & LEAÑO

Counsel for Energizer Philippines, Inc.
6/F Tuscan Bldg.,

114 Herrera Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City



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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with rain	HI 30° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy with rain	HI 23° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rain	HI 31° Lo 22°
Laag	Cloudy with rain	HI 32° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with rain	HI 30° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with rain	HI 30° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with rain	HI 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with rain	HI 31° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Cloudy with rain	HI 32° Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with rain	HI 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with rain	HI 31° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with rain	HI 30° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rain	HI 29° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with rain	HI 31° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rain	HI 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with rain	HI 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research/08/05/01

ROUNDUP

School fails standards

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The Commission on Higher Education said the Golden Heritage School, formerly the Northern Mindanao Polytechnic School, in Barangay Carmen here, did not meet the academic standards set by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Susan Daisy Raagas, education supervisor, said students enrolled in non-IMO compliant maritime schools would be left out since no maritime agencies would hire them. She said it was a waste of money and time to go to schools that are not IMO-qualified. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Free health services

DAVAO CITY—At least 300 poor patients got free health services on Tuesday at the Calinan Gymnasium in Calinan District here. The Medical and Dental Civic Action Program (Medcap) was initiated by the Civil Relations Group for Southeastern Mindanao (CRGSEM) and the Department of Health regional office, according to Maj. Romeo Ucag, CRGSEM commander.

Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Boy's kidnappers tagged

DAVAO CITY—An alleged witness in the kidnapping of an 11-year-old boy in Cebu City has identified the five arrested suspects as among those involved in the crime. Senior Supt. Alex Paul Montegudo, head of the Special Task Group-Mindanao Area Office (STaG-MAO), said a certain "Leleng" went to his office and said she was willing to testify against the suspects. Montegudo said the 35-year-old woman claimed she worked with HR Taxi where the suspects reportedly bought the vehicle used to transport the victim, Ryan James Yu.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Marijuana plants uprooted

DAVAO CITY—Some P6.9 million worth of marijuana plants and seedlings were uprooted in a four-hectare plantation in Sitio Asbang Puyo and Gumatikura in Barangay Kimlawis, Kiblawan, Davao del Sur. Bandits led by Vicente Tayal, alias Lati, and a certain Got allegedly guarded the field. Uprooted were 390,000 fully-grown marijuana plants worth P5.85 million and 220,000 seedlings worth P1.1 million. The suspects fled after a brief clash with police and anti-narcotics agents.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Camp transfer favored

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—A plan to move Camp Olivas, Central Luzon's police headquarters, to the country's biggest economic zone gained support from Bases Conversion Development Authority chair Rogelio Singon. "I see no problem. It will be the best for Clark if the police will establish their presence here," Singon said of the plan proposed by Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, regional police director. Berroya said the transfer was prompted by the effects of the floods on the center's operational efficiency, and personnel health and safety.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

P10-M mango center

IBA, Zambales—The provincial government will implement programs to improve the mango industry in Zambales, a potential dollar earner for the province. Vice Gov. Ramon Lacban said the province would build a P10-million mango center project to house a processing plant, trading post and a common service facility area to help local mango growers and traders.

PDI Central Luzon Desk

Businessman found dead

TABACO CITY—A businessman was found dead near his house at Barangay Panal here. Guandolino Bragais, 43, owner of a big commercial firm, was shot in the chin, police investigator SPO1 Jose Bilario said. Found near the body was a .22 cal. Bilario gun. Bragais had been missing since July 28. Several occupants of his leased offices said they had noticed Bragais to be beset by problems a week before he was found dead.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Drug pusher nabbed

SORSOGON CITY—Members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the city police have arrested a suspected illegal drug pusher here. Police said a gram of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) was seized from the suspect, Ernesto Dangalan, 19, of Barangay Sirangan, this city. Dangalan was reportedly in the list of persons allegedly engaged in drug trafficking here. He is being held at the city jail.

Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Prisoners' protest forces ouster of jail warden

BY JOFELLE TESORIO
AND RUELLE ALBERT CASTRO
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Inmates of the provincial jail here cheered, clapped and shouted when Gov. Joel Reyes ordered the relief of the jail warden and assigned a temporary head.

Reyes issued the relief order after about 300 inmates and four guards staged a boycott and set up a barricade inside the jail compound to dramatize their demand for the relief of warden Remedio Villanueva for alleged graft and corruption.

The inmates had earlier signed a petition letter asking for Villanueva's relief. They were supported by a group of jail guards who also had complaints against the warden.

Tension gripped the provincial jail after the protesters vowed to continue with the boycott unless Villanueva was relieved.

They threatened to create a commotion if

the warden insisted on going back to his office inside the compound.

The four guards on duty at that time conspired with the inmates by closing all the doors for Villanueva and any visitor. They allowed only journalists inside.

The inmates said they had been receiving harsh treatment from Villanueva since he was appointed warden.

"We're not convicted yet. We're only detainees but he treated us like prisoners," one inmate said.

The prisoners also complained about the quality of food given to them. They said the P30 daily allowance per inmate was not commensurate with the kind of food served them.

Sometimes, they said, they were given spoiled food.

They said they suspected that Villanueva had pocketed a part of their food allocation. They accused him of diverting the food supply for some inmates he was using as workers in his fishpond in Aborlan town in northern Palawan.

Jail-cook Bobot Patricio said that of the

weekly rice ration for jail consumption, Villanueva would bring five to eight kilos to his fishpond.

Moreover, Patricio said the menu for the day was not followed on orders of Villanueva.

The warden, however, denied the accusations, saying it was the caterer who decided on the food of the inmates.

The inmates said Villanueva had denied them their share of the income from the handicraft items they made and from the services of a barber inside the jail.

Christian Antoneble, another inmate, complained that he was forced by Villanueva to swallow a lighted cigarette when he was found smoking inside the compound.

Antoneble further complained that Villanueva hit him during that instance.

Villanueva has denied all the accusations.

In an interview with a radio station here, he said some people who were interested in his position or who hold a grudge against him could be behind the protest.

Provincial officials had been receiving simi-

lar complaints from the prisoners several years ago, but none of these had been acted upon until Thursday when the protest broke out. Provincial administrator Soc Madamba summoned the four jail guards who supported the inmates' protest. Their guards were identified as Salvador Ordillas, Prosperito Pablico, Gerry Austria and Raymundo Cabildo.

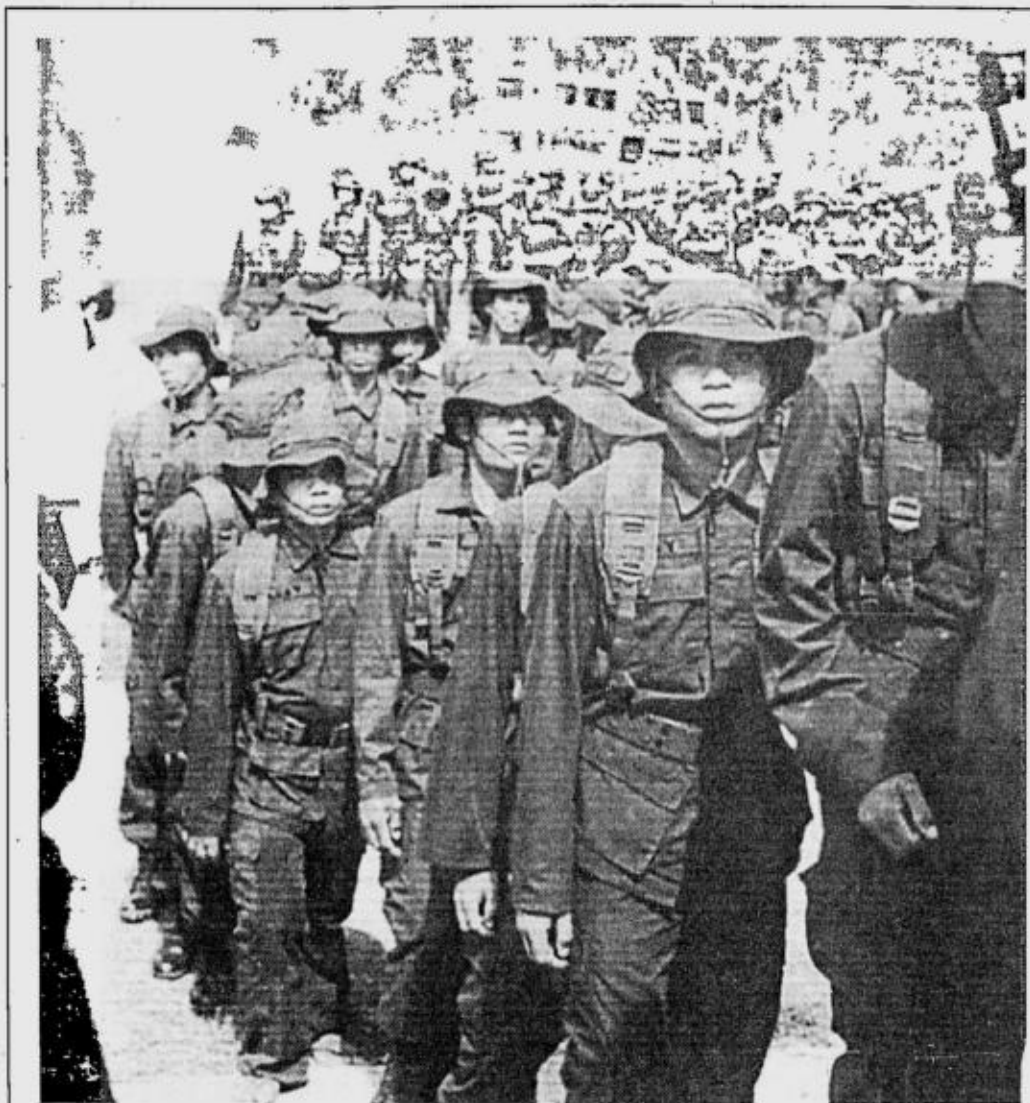
Madamba said he would ask them to explain why they should not be charged with violating civil service provisions. Instead of quelling the protest, they even sided with the inmates, he said.

The guards said they took pity on the inmates who were always subjected to harassment and humiliation.

Ordillas said even the guards were not spared from Villanueva's frequent shouting.

The warden denied the allegation, saying the incident was initiated by Ordillas after he was caught gambling inside the jail compound and was confronted with a disciplinary action.

He said Ordillas and the other guards used the inmates to get even at him.



THE OTHER FLANK

While other Reserved Officers Training Corps cadets are walking out of training in Isabela in protest, these students, numbering at least 100, refuse to join the fray. They fall in line for their snacks after an hour-long tree-planting activity in Barangay San Miguel in Naguillian town.

VILLAMOR VISAYA JR.

NBI agents arrest SBMA employee for extortion try

OLONGAPO CITY—Acting on a complaint by an American locator at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone, National Bureau of Investigation agents last week arrested a female employee of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority's ecology department on direct bribery charges.

Lawyer Magno Britanico, NBI special agent, said Laila Danguilan was arrested after receiving P5,000 in marked money from complainant Robert Keiser on July 27.

In his complaint, Keiser told Britanico that his company, RFK Subic Bay Building and Development Corp., has been applying for an ecology permit since December 2000.

He said that when they went back to the ecology department to follow up their application, they were told that the department had no record of their application and were asked to file another application.

Keiser said Danguilan later approached them and said the papers are with her but since it was dated December 2000, they must submit another application.

It was then that Danguilan offered to process their papers "for a fee."

In an entrapment operation at a restaurant in Olongapo City, NBI agents arrested Danguilan

after she received the marked money from Keiser.

The agents also confiscated Danguilan's identification card and cellular phone, where her communications with the complainant were recorded, as evidence.

Danguilan was later released on bail.

Acting SBMA ecology head Ameth de la Llana said she could not give any definitive statement since she has yet to receive copies of Keiser's complaint and the NBI report.

Nonetheless, De la Llana said she has directed Danguilan's immediate superior to look into the incident to determine administrative sanctions that may have to be imposed.

She confirmed, however, that Danguilan does not belong to the division, which processes the document that was the subject of Keiser's complaint, the Initial Environmental Evaluation (IEE) checklist.

Danguilan is an environment management specialist assigned to the solid waste division of the SBMA ecology department.

She worked with De la Llana's predecessor, Michael Musngi, in an environmental consultancy group headed by former Environment Secretary Fulgencio Factoran Jr. *Elizabeth Marcelo and Anshert Joaquin, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Former Inquirer correspondent dies

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A former correspondent of the INQUIRER in this city died of cancer around 11:45 p.m. on Friday.

Jerry Malayang, who was supposed to celebrate his 45th birthday on Aug. 31, died after being comatose for about 40 hours at his house in Sitio Balunto, Barangay Labangal here.

He is survived by his wife Dina and five children.

Dina said Jerry had refused to be admitted to a hospital.

"He had accepted his fate. He was ready to die. In fact, he had been praying to God not to allow him to suffer long," she recounted.

Jerry's illness was discovered in October last year while he was working as graphics designer in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates.

A medical report from the Dubai Hospital indicated that Jerry consulted a doctor after he noticed a swelling in the right side of his neck, fever, loss of weight and appetite.

His remains were brought to the Collado Funeral Homes. Interment will be announced later.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Execs move to stop closure of sanctuary

BY JOFELLE TESORIO
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The provincial council of Palawan has passed a legislative inquiry into reports that the Calauit Game Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary, also known as the Africa of the Philippines, will be closed soon due to budget constraints.

Vice Gov. David Ponce de Leon described the report as alarming, considering that the island is the only place in the Philippines where exotic animals from Africa live in a favorable environment.

The government claimed, however, that it could no longer afford to subsidize the operations of the sanctuary.

The council said it would recommend remedial measures to prevent its closure.

There have been negotiations for the construction of a marina and golf course on the island as part of a plan to

convert it into a world-class tourist destination.

The plan has long been under study.

Calauit Island was established in 1977 as a hunting ground for former President Ferdinand Marcos' son, Bongbong.

Animals from Africa were transported to give the island in northern Palawan an exotic touch.

After the Edsa Revolution in 1986, the management of the island was transferred to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Since then, Calauit has become a major tourist attraction.

In 1994, the management of the sanctuary was transferred to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, then a newly created governing body dealing with environmental issues in Palawan.

Calauit is home to many exotic animals like impala, giraffe, gazelle, waterbucks and the endemic Calamian deer.

Irregularities in Iloilo City hospital bared

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—A group of alumni and volunteer physicians at the West Visayas State University Hospital (WVSUH) is demanding an inquiry into its procurement system after the Commission on Audit uncovered irregularities in the purchase of hospital equipment worth P2 million.

Dr. Louie Tirador, president of the alumni association of the WVSUH College of Medicine, said consultants and experts in the university-run hospital were not consulted when management decided to buy the equipment.

He said the requisition slips, specifying the brands of the equipment, were signed by nurses who were not experts in deciding what equipment to buy.

Tirador, however, said they were not accusing anybody in particular but merely wanted the wrongdoing investigated and those responsible punished.

Cheaper brands

In a report released July 13, the COA said the government lost about P1.5 million in the purchase of the hospital equipment because the WVSUH did not buy the cheaper brands.

The WVSUH paid P2,071,300 for two units of ward transporter trolley, six gooseneck lamps, a ward laundry trolley, an electrocautery machine, two cardiac monitors, two instant access crash carts, and an emergency trolley between March and September last year.

The COA said cheaper brands of these items were available in the market at less than P500,000.

It said the hospital bought a Medicotek gooseneck lamp at P17,000 although a local brand cost only P1,000. A lamp made in Taiwan is being sold at only P1,700, the COA said.

The hospital bought at P79,350 a Medicotek-supplied ward laundry trolley, which is used to collect soiled linen. The COA said local brands of the trolley were sold for only P8,000 each.

A Progetti cardiac monitor, bought from Medicotek Philippines at P212,700, could be substituted for cheaper brands, which cost between P35,000 and P115,000, the COA said.

A Waterloo instant access crash cart from Dispo Philippines Inc., a cabinet used to store life-support drugs, was bought at P198,000. The COA said a cheaper brand was available for only P35,000.

The most expensive among the

seven items is the Merivaara emergency patient trolley, also supplied by Medicotek, which is actually a stretcher used to move emergency patients.

This trolley was bought at P348,000 while cheaper brands cost only between P5,000 and P45,000, the COA said.

Six of these items were purchased through exclusive distributorship with cost ranging from P102,000 to P560,000, the COA said.

Only the ward laundry trolley was acquired through sealed canvass.

Procedure

The procurement of materials usually starts with the submission of requisition slips, followed by the canvass or public bidding, the evaluation of bid proposals and finally the issuance of purchase orders. The COA said the reverse happened at the WVSUH.

The Commission said the equipment did not go with a brochure or instruction material. There was also no complete information on the place of origin, name of manufacturer and serial number that should have been etched in the equipment.

In a letter to the COA, the hospital management admitted that it had dispensed with the public bidding and the sealed canvass and had instead issued a purchase order to the exclusive distributor.

Dr. Ramon Guerra, WVSUH director, said the purchase through exclusive distributorship was a hospital practice.

He said the deficiencies cited in the COA report had been corrected. Dealers have also sent them manuals and brochures on how to operate the hospital equipment, he said.

A technical committee, headed by Guerra, was formed to evaluate all requests for the purchase of hospital and office equipment.

The COA also found that the hospital paid the mobile phone bills of Guerra and administrative officer Fe Robles when only five percent and 24 percent of the calls were made to the telephones of the hospital from November 1999 to August 2000.

Of more than P25,135 in calls made by Guerra, he paid only P8,229 while the rest of the amount was paid by the hospital.

The hospital reportedly paid for Robles' calls, which reached P17,853.10. But Guerra said he and Robles had already paid the bills.

"All issues... raised against me in the COA report are old issues. Probably they just want me out because they are interested in my post," said Guerra.



THIS giraffe is among Calauit Island's resident animals.

FILE PHOTO

INQUIRER Mindanao

JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ NICO A. ALCONABA, Bureau Chief

The emasculation of Nur Misuari

BY CARLOS H. CONDE

THE PLAN, according to a Malacañang official, was simple: Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo would call Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) leader Nur Misuari to the presidential palace and tell him that his time as chair of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD) was up.

After the coup de grace, Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza would come in to mollify Misuari, "to prevent the situation from spinning out of control."

Putting Misuari under control was top priority. A few days before the plan to oust him was supposed to be carried out (on Thursday), Misuari had been fulminating against the Macapagal administration. His words, as ever, were ominous:

"I have told (President Macapagal) that I only wished the government would not push the situation to the extreme... The moment the situation slips out of our hands, it would be very, very difficult to see what's going to happen... The situation is already quite sensitive, quite volatile." Misuari was speaking to reporters in Davao City. "I'm very optimistic that in the end, wisdom will prevail, that she (the President) will decide against doing anything that might drag the situation to another direction that nobody would like to go."

"Are you threatening the President?" one reporter asked. Misuari snapped back: "No! It's not a threat. I'm just trying to tell you a scenario."

But no matter how Misuari tried to sound diplomatic, his message was clear: Something is going to go off if Malacañang pushes through with the Aug. 14 plebiscite.

Malacañang was not taking any chances. "We are prepared for the worst-case scenario," the source said. And it would be Misuari going back to the hills? "Or to the Dusit Hotel, his favorite hangout," he said, laughing.

Desperate predicament
For some reason, the plan to oust Misuari from the SPCPD did not

push through on Thursday. When reached for an explanation three hours after Misuari and Romulo met behind closed doors in Malacañang, the source said the Palace would instead be "phasing" the plan.

Successful or not, the plot illustrates the determination of the administration to get rid of Misuari. "He has to be removed before Aug. 14. That's the only way for the plebiscite to take place," the source said.

If Misuari were removed as SPCPD chair, he would lose control over the Special Zone of Peace and Development (Szopad) areas that are going to participate in the plebiscite.

The SPCPD has direct control and supervision over the Szopad, which is composed of 15 provinces and 14 cities; four of these provinces comprise the ARMM. (In the plebiscite, citizens from the Szopad areas, except the ARMM provinces, will be asked if they want to join the ARMM. The ARMM citizens will be asked if they agree to the amendments to Republic Act No. 6734, the Organic Act that created the ARMM.)

The source explained that if the plebiscite is held with Misuari still around, "he can mess things up and people will certainly not vote for the amended law out of fear. If Misuari is gone, people will have an easier time deciding for themselves."

Anti-Misuari plot

The plot to oust Misuari as SPCPD chair came on the heels of the move by a group of MNLF officials, known as the Council of 15, to remove him as chair of the front; last month, they named Misuari chairman emeritus.

It is not an accident that Malacañang's choice to replace Misuari as SPCPD chair was



MISUARI

Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema, the MNLF's secretary general who is a member of the Council of 15 and who earlier broached the idea of a power sharing between the MNLF and the MILF. This power sharing turned out to be the unification of the two fronts, which was announced and endorsed by the government on Friday.

Why this alliance with the MNLF whom the MILF has traditionally frowned upon for "capitulating" to the government?

"We believe in united front tactics. We agree with anybody as long

as the basis of the agreement is not to the disadvantage of the MILF," Mohagher Iqbal, MILF information officer, said.

He said the unification was crucial to the pursuit of peace. "This will primarily have a bearing on the representation to the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)."

At present, the OIC only recognizes the MNLF as the representative of the Moro people to the 56-member OIC. In effect, the MILF will piggyback on the MNLF for OIC recognition.

Obviously, the government supported, if not brokered, the unification because it would be easier for it to implement whatever program it has for Muslim Mindanao. It was meant to sideline an increasingly belligerent Misuari and show a semblance of sincerity in addressing the problem in Mindanao in a wider scope.

As the Malacañang source put it, "We just want to push the peace process without Misuari's brand of leadership."

Moreover, the unification of the MNLF and the MILF, as well as the coup against Misuari, reportedly has the blessing of the OIC, which, according to Council of 15 leader Parouk Hussin, has become dissatisfied with Misuari's leadership due to his "dismal performance."

But to Misuari, the unification is nothing but a betrayal on the part of his former comrades and an attempt by the government to undermine both the MNLF and the MILF.

"The government is getting a splinter group from us and a splinter from the MILF, bring them together and let the OIC recognize them. Is that the way to solve this problem? Can they solve the problem without Nur Misuari and company? Can they solve the problem without (MILF chair) Salamat Hashim and the others?" Misuari said last week.

Misuari challenged the government to produce any semblance of support for the Council of 15 from within the MNLF, saying that those who support the council comprise only 1 percent of the MNLF.

Questions

Two questions beg for answers in the light of all these: Why is the government intent on emasculating Misuari? And why is Misuari opposing the plebiscite and RA 9054, the amendatory law to the ARMM Organic Act?

The government complains that Misuari has not done enough for the 1996 peace agreement, a charge that Misuari has kept on throwing back to the government. It is the government, he says, that has not done enough.

But things apparently came to a head after President Macapagal-Arroyo signed RA 9054 into law. This law, according to Misuari, subverts genuine autonomy and the letter and spirit of the 1996 peace agreement.

Among the provisions of RA 9054 that the MNLF considers the "most explosive" is that giving to the national government control and supervision of natural and mineral resources within the ARMM, including water, energy and forest resources.

The MNLF says this provision strikes at the heart of genuine autonomy. It believes this "will rob the native inhabitants of the region of their birthright over their God-given natural resources."

The provision will also institutionalize land grabbing, the MNLF says, as it will give *carte blanche* powers to the national government over the exploitation of these resources in the ARMM.

MNLF spokesperson Rev. Absalom Cerveza said the MNLF's objections to RA 9054 are just among the complaints the group has against the government. Other reasons are the government's alleged procedural lapses in the crafting of the organic act, which did not involve the MNLF.

Cerveza also said the government ignored the OIC resolutions asking it not to conduct a plebiscite unilaterally. "So you see, we are not objecting to the plebiscite *per se*," he said.

Whether true or not, the MNLF contention—that Misuari is in such trouble because RA 9054 has to be ratified—does put in context this latest drama involving the MNLF.

The plot against Misuari and the holding of the plebiscite, Cerveza said, "opens wide the possibility of resumption of hostilities. The ball really is in the government's hands."

Carlos H. Conde, 35, is a freelance journalist based in Davao City. He is also the special correspondent in the Philippines of the Washington Post and board member of bulatlat.com, an alternative online newsmagazine.

Giving back Sabah to the Sulu sultanate

BY NORALYN MUSTAFA

DISMAYED over a published news report saying that President Macapagal-Arroyo, "in a speech before foreign service officers, broadly hinted that she was open to possibly dropping the country's claim over Sabah," the heirs of the Sultan of Sulu now want territorial rights over that Malaysian state returned to them.

In a statement issued through their legal counsel Ulka Ulama, the members of the royal Kiram family said Sabah (North Borneo) belongs to the Sultanate of Sulu, and the government cannot just drop its claim to that territory without consulting the heirs.

Ulama said the original lease contract, the Makasie Decision and the annual payment of rentals to the Sultanate should clear all doubts that Sabah belonged to the Sultanate.

The lease contract between Sri Paduka Maulana Al Sultan Mohammad Jamalul A'lam as owner and sovereign of Sabah on one hand, and Gustavus Baron de Overbeck and Alfred Dent, representing the British East India Co., on the other as lessee of Sabah, was executed on June 22, 1878.

The judgment of Chief Justice C.F.C. Makasie of the High Court of North Borneo in the civil suit filed by the late Dayang Dayang Hadji Piandao and eight other heirs, including the famous Putih (Princess) Tarhata Kiram in 1939, upheld the validity of the claim of the heirs.

Although the Malaysian government took possession of Sabah from the British government in 1963, it has not been remiss in paying the heirs so-called "cession monies" or annual customary payment/rentals.

But the amount, which in the original contract was set at 5,000 Mexican dollars or its corresponding value in gold, has increased by only 300 since 1878, or an annual rental of only 5,300—but in Malaysian ringgits.

According to the heirs, the Philippine government is only an assignee, as mandated by a deed of transfer of sovereignty executed by the Sultan of Sulu, Esmail Kiram in 1962.

But the same document stipulates that "the Republic of the Philippines (shall) exhaust all peaceful means within its sovereign powers to prevent the dismemberment of the integrity and unity of the ancient Sultanate of Sulu," of which Sabah is a part.

The heirs said that if the Philippine government felt that it could no longer comply with its obligation as stated in the deed, then the most logical and practical way would be to return the sovereign rights over Sabah to its rightful owner, the Sultanate of Sulu.

The deed of transfer, the heirs said, was formally made by the sultan and duly signed on be-

half of the government by then Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez. Therefore, a revocation of the terms of the deed should be made through another formal document to be executed by the present sultan, Esmail Kiram II, and Vice President Teofisto Guingona, with the conformity of the Ruma Bichara and the Council of Datus.

The deed of transfer was made during the administration of President Diosdado Macapagal, and Pelaez was then vice president and foreign affairs secretary.

The late Princess Denchurain Kiram, in a letter dated Feb. 2, 1999, addressed to Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad through the former President, had requested for an increase in the annual rentals.

The princess, who died the following September, never received any reply from the Malaysian government.

During the Aquino administration in 1987, the government also decided to drop its territorial claim to the Malaysian state without consulting the heirs, and when the heirs, then headed by the late Princess Sakinur-in, sister of Princess Tarhata, tried to seek audience with President Aquino. Their request was ignored and they were instead referred to the foreign affairs department, according to Ulama.

"In order to assure the heirs of their proprietary claims through just and legal compensation, the Philippine government should first consult them before finalizing its move to drop the Sabah claim," Ulama said.

In a resolution dated Sept. 10, 2000, the heirs "urgently" reiterated the request for an increase in the rentals through the former President. They "affirmed and confirmed" Sultan Esmail Kiram II as "the duly recognized and authorized Sultan of Sulu and North Borneo for all intents and legal purposes, and Putri Taj-Mahal Kiram Tarsum-Nuqui, Pangian Dayang-Dayang of the Sultanate of Sulu."

The present sultan is the nephew and namesake of the late Sultan Mohammad Esmail Kiram who executed the "Instrument of cession of the territory of North Borneo" to the Republic of the Philippines.

Princess Taj-Mahal is the highest-ranking female heir of the Sultanate.

In 1972, the Malaysian government offered the heirs US\$86 million for the settlement of their proprietary claim.

In 1974, the same amount was offered on condition that the Philippine government renounces its territorial claim.

Once the sovereign rights of the Sultanate of Sulu are formally returned by the Philippine government, the Sultanate will revert to its former status as a sovereign state, the heirs said.

Sabah, with an area of 29,388 square miles and a coastline of over 600 miles, is much bigger than most Islamic states in some parts of the world. It is rich in natural resources, and its revenues can help solve the problem of extreme poverty in Southern Philippines, according to the heirs.

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Ping has \$211M in US, says Corpus

(From page A1)

"The bulk of the deposits was amassed through drug trafficking since 1992. A few million came from kidnap-for-ransom (activities) and bank robberies," he said.

"I've got the goods on Lacson," said Corpus, who provided the INQUIRER with a copy of the report, dated June 28, which bears his signature as Isafp head.

The Philippine intelligence team reported that the balance of the deposits stood at more than \$500 million each for Lacson and Estrada as of July 20 this year, Corpus said in one interview.

He said that as of July 1, the total deposits held by Estrada, Lacson and the latter's wife Alice stood at \$728.5 million, "but grew to at least \$1 billion when (information on more accounts surfaced) on July 20. More accounts are expected to be uncovered. The investigation is continuing."

Working with US

The joint team of the Isafp and the Philippine National Police, headed by team leader AFP Col. Mario Chan, left Manila on June 2 and spent nearly a month in San Francisco investigating leads on the alleged accounts, Corpus said.

The joint team developed the leads through a mutual exchange of intelligence information with the US Customs Service throughout the whole month of June, according to the report submitted to Corpus.

"What the US authorities wanted to achieve is not only to find the money (Lacson's bank accounts) but also to go for the freezing, seizure and eventual forfeiture of Lacson's money in favor of both the US and the Philippine governments," Chan said in the report.

"The (Philippine) team's main priority is to secure the official records of Lacson's bank accounts," he added.

"The mission was able to successfully provide US federal authorities sufficient information to warrant the start of a formal investigation of Lacson for the possible violations of US laws, particularly (against) money laundering," according to the report.

Based on Chan's report, Corpus ordered military intelligence officers to continue the investigation in the Philippines. He himself heads this team.

The "President is regularly being briefed on the developments of the investigation," the intelligence chief said.

Corpus dares Ping

Lacson, former chief of the Philippine National Police and the now defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, has consistently denied maintaining bank accounts abroad, asserting that all his deposits are held in the country. (See related story on Page A1.)

Corpus, however, dared Lacson to formally belie the existence of these accounts both under oath and while undergoing a polygraph test.

"I challenge Ping to deny these accounts under oath and for him to undergo a polygraph examination," Corpus told the INQUIRER. "If he even passes the polygraph, I will resign as Isafp chief and retire from the military service."

The accounts

Citing the intelligence information, Corpus said Lacson alone maintains eight personal accounts totaling \$211,388,420 in six Citibank branches in Hong Kong, California and New York; and two Bank of America accounts in California and New York.

Lacson and Estrada have six joint Citibank accounts in Hong Kong with deposits totaling \$118,833,107, Corpus claimed.

Estrada, who is facing plunder and other criminal charges before the Sandiganbayan, allegedly has a separate account at Citibank in Hong Kong containing \$336,421,250.

Lacson and wife Alice have one joint account in Citibank in New York with \$21,500,436 in deposits, Corpus said.

He alleged that Ms Lacson, for her part, has one account each in the Bank of America in Las Vegas and Wells Fargo in Washington, with deposits totaling \$40,357,078.

Between the two of them, the Lacsons have a total of \$283,245,934 in foreign bank deposits, according to Corpus.

In one interview, Corpus said three more accounts each for Lacson and Estrada were uncovered through "unofficial channels." Each account, he said, contained an average of \$20 million. Another account containing \$180 million was found in the name of Sen. Loi Estrada in Hong Kong, Corpus said.

Recommended charges

Corpus declined to answer questions about how exactly the Isafp obtained such specific information on the accounts, but vowed to disclose answers under the "appropriate" circumstances.

"As of this time it is enough to say that we were able to get it," Corpus said. "I'm ready to answer these questions at the appropriate time and venue."

Chan said apart from bank accounts, the mission was able to establish that Lacson and his wife had other assets such as corporations, houses and luxury vehicles acquired in the United States.

The team leader has thus recommended the filing of criminal cases against Lacson. These include the violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act or Republic Act 3019 "for amassing wealth way beyond his lawful means."

Chan recommended that the senator also be charged with violating the Code of Conduct for Public Officers and Employees, or Republic Act 6713, for "not truthfully disclosing (his) assets and net worth."

Chan said Lacson could also be charged with plunder, perjury and unexplained wealth.

"The Philippine Department of Justice can now formally request for the bank records of Lacson from the US (justice department), invoking the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty forged by the two governments," he said.

The DOJ earlier this year asked the US government to help confirm reports about the existence of Lacson's accounts in American banks.

The mission

As early as February this year, Corpus said, the Philippine government sought the assistance of the FBI, the US Customs Service, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) in gathering evidence to support allegations that Lacson had laundered money in the United States.

After getting an "unofficial confirmation" from two of these agencies, which Corpus refused to name, he recommended to the President that the intelligence team be sent to the United States.

On May 20, Ms Macapagal approved the mission, Corpus said.

Malacañang gave the six-man team a P3-million budget for the

one-month mission: to coordinate with US authorities in conducting a "full-blown investigation" of Lacson's alleged money-laundering activities.

"The mutual understanding, cooperation and assistance between the joint AFP/PNP team and the US Customs Service led to the convening of the official investigation on Lacson for suspicion of involvement in large scale money-laundering activities in the US. This is a serious criminal offense in the US," said Chan, the team leader, in the June 28 report to Corpus.

Chan said the mission paved the way for the establishment of an intelligence exchange between the AFP/PNP operatives and agents of the US Customs Service in San Francisco and Hong Kong. The Filipino team worked closely with officials from the US Customs Internal Affairs Office and an anti-money laundering group of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, the report said.

PNP Intelligence Group Senior Supt. Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza acted as Chan's police counterpart in directing the San Francisco team. The other members were ex-PAOCTF agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong, Egon Liscano of PNP intelligence, legal counsel Stephen Jaromay and a civilian, Blanquita Pelaez, a complainant in a suit against Lacson.

'Where's the money from?'

Corpus said Lacson could not possibly explain accumulating such vast amounts through legal means.

"Where did all this money come from?" he asked rhetorically.

He said the reported evidence of the foreign bank accounts lent credence to allegations that Lacson and his associates from both the

PAOCTF and its predecessor, the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission, which Estrada chaired when he was still Vice President, were engaged in illegal activities.

"Based on existing testimonies in our possession, Lacson was allegedly behind organized crime activities like drug trafficking, kidnapping for ransom, armed robberies and others," Corpus said.

The Isafp has under its protection two witnesses who claim to have been part of Lacson's inner circle and have rendered statements purportedly detailing what they knew about the alleged illegal activities.

The witnesses, Ong and Angelo "Ador" Mawanay, have also implicated Lacson's most trusted men, particularly Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao.

Lacson and his supporters, as well as some of his critics, have questioned the credibility of the witnesses, especially Ador.

Aquino and Mancao have reportedly fled the country via Cebu using fake passports. They are believed to be in Canada, despite denials made in cell phone interviews.

Ong has testified on, among others, the alleged kidnapping and murder of Chinese nationals by Lacson's men. A former Chinese-language interpreter for the Lacson group, she also linked the group to drug trafficking.

Mawanay's claims include allegations that Lacson masterminded a number of kidnapping cases.

Corpus also said Isafp is protecting witnesses of the alleged murders of 11 members of the Kuratong Baleleng Gang by Lacson's team in 1995.

4 more headless bodies found

(From page A1)

face to face with death," said Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who was in Balobo when the bodies were found. "This is the consequence of the situation here. In my talks with the residents, I could feel their helplessness."

Biazon called for the deployment of more troops, saying "the people need to be reassured that there is still a government."

Balobo is about 3 kilometers from the Lamitan town proper.

The village is "very accessible to all vehicles," and it is also "used by lawless elements in going to our town," Lamitan Mayor Innocente Ramos said.

Ramos identified the bodies as those of Alexander Ramirez, Tereso Ramirez, Edgardo "Dandy" Revillas and Rodolfo Francisco, who were among those abducted by suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits Thursday night.

He said their severed heads were found a few meters away.

Ramos said he found at the site a white shirt with a handwritten message attributing the killings to Sulu-based Abu Sayyaf leader Galib Andang alias Commander Robot.

The message also purportedly said that the Abu Sayyaf was behind earlier beheadings on the highway of Lamitan and in Barangays Tagasilay and Kanibungan in Lantawan, and that it had also beheaded the two Golden Harvest

plantation workers in Barangay Cabunbata in Isabela City.

According to Ramos, another message, written on a torn notebook page, said Abu Jihad and Abu Radzmi, supposedly of Sumisip, led the group.

The bandits attacked Balobo and Barangay Bohe Baka Thursday night, taking 30 residents, including women and children.

Of the 30, two were immediately freed and three others managed to escape.

On Friday morning, four of those abducted were found dead, three of them beheaded. In the afternoon, coconut farmer Feliciano Ramones was also found dead within the premises of the Look Elementary School, which the bandits torched Thursday night.

Ramos said that from information he had gathered, around 40 young gunmen staged the attack on Balobo and Bohe Baka. He said Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya was "positively seen during the raid."

In Manila, Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, acting chief of staff of the Armed Forces, said the attackers were led by Abu Sayyaf sub-commanders Hakim Yatin, Sattar Yacub and Gani Sulaiman, all part of Sabaya's group and supported by reinforcements from Andang's group.

Combative

In a news conference in Zamboanga City yesterday morn-

ing, Biazon called for an augmentation of six battalions of soldiers "in order to finish the problem as soon as possible."

"I think the government will have to respond to this..." he said. "People in Manila are issuing words, strong, combative words that are not backed by proper actions or steps. I call for the deployment of more troops. I can see that people need to be reassured that there is still a government."

He urged the government to make the Abu Sayyaf problem its immediate priority.

"The effect on our national economic life is terrible. The downtrend of the country's political situation and economic slump will continue unless the Abu Sayyaf problem is resolved once and for all," he said, adding:

"The government should send more troops and equipment to Basilan in order to finish the problem. The one-month deadline set to solve the Abu Sayyaf mess is too short. Just let the military do its job."

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the Cabinet oversight committee on internal security met Friday to review the Lamitan abductions and came up with the conclusion that militiamen had been deployed too thinly in Basilan, and "not as

swiftly as expected."

The government is now thinking of deploying platoon-sized militia formations instead of the previous small groups, he said.

At the same time, he said, the intelligence network would be strengthened.

Asked to comment on the bandits' supposed demand, as relayed through freed hostage Glenda Esteban, that the government stop military operations in the area, Tiglao said Malacañang was sticking with its original policy.

"We cannot accede to that demand and we maintain our policy that we have a designated negotiator, William Castillo," he said.

"In the first place, their demand for the military to withdraw and stop operations cannot be granted," he added in Taglish.

Tiglao also pointed out that the latest abductions and killings were desperate moves on the part of the Abu Sayyaf.

"There's no rationale to these," he said.

Barbaric

Col. Pedro Cesar Ramboanga, chief of the 102nd Army Brigade, described the killings as "very, very barbaric acts."

Speaking in Filipino, Basilan Gov. Wabab Akbar said the killers were "heartless, ruthless and of beastly minds."

Ramboanga admitted that the military had been forced to temporarily halt offensives in the Sampinit Complex to address the situation in Lamitan.

Solon shows 'em what austerity is

(From page A1)

permit, he takes a boat to visit his province.

Moreover, he interacts with his constituents by acting as *kristo* (bet collector) in cockfight arenas scattered around his district.

Would you believe this guy is a congressman?

Compostela Valley Rep. Manuel Zamora, 51, has a lot to teach his colleagues about frugality and austerity.

A first-term congressman, Zamora says he goes to work on a bicycle because he still has to get a car from the House of Representatives and he can't afford to take a taxi.

"So, I thought, since the place I was renting was only 3 kilometers away (from the Batasang Pambansa complex), why not ride a bike?"

Zamora says in an interview the INQUIRER.

So off to Cartimar in Pasay City, Zamora went with his chief of staff to purchase a P5,000 mountain bike.

At 8 a.m. from Monday to Friday, Zamora takes a 30-minute bike ride from Sierra Monte Village in Quezon City to the Batasang Pambansa.

"It's uphill going to the House, but it's okay because it's downhill on my way home," he says.

Donned in jogging pants, Zamora chains his bike to the railing of the steps at the entrance of the South Wing where he holds office at Room 407.

After taking a bath, he changes into his *purmuntong* shorts and then goes about his legislative work, including entertaining his constituents.

"I'm comfortable in my shorts. Why should I be ashamed?" says

Zamora, who is a farmer by profession.

At lunchtime, Zamora takes his bike for the short trip across the main gate to take his meal at Migs Restaurant where rank-and-file House employees have their lunch.

After lunch, he changes into the more formal *barong Tagalog* as he prepares for the 4 p.m. regular session.

"I'm just like this. I am a simple man," Zamora says, wondering why he should get so much attention for leading a frugal life in what was otherwise a world of the rich and famous in the House.

He says he felt timid during the opening of Congress on July 23 because his seatmate happened to be San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, who incidentally has a brother named Manuel.

"(Ronaldo Zamora) is so rich, it

felt weird sitting beside him," says the unassuming Zamora, a high school graduate who only went as far as first year in college where he took an engineering course.

Zamora says he was elected congressman because he had always been available to help his provincemates since he became a provincial board member in 1992.

"I have brought more than 3,000 patients to the hospital and I have personally seen to the delivery of 443 cadavers to funeral homes," Zamora says.

The service vehicle he drives in the province is owned by his wife, who won it in a raffle at a local church.

He had a campaign kitty of only P250,000 but Zamora handily won in his district.

Another secret to Zamora's elec-

toral success is his being a *kristo* (bet collector) in cockfight derbies that are regularly held in his district.

"Almost all the sectors are there—be they lawyers, accountants. Everybody is there. I call it political maintenance," Zamora says.

Whatever he earns adds to the P35,000 monthly salary he gets as a congressman.

"Most of my earnings go to donations, dole outs and contributions," Zamora says.

Because of this he had to content himself with taking commercial boat trips to go home to Compostela Valley.

In fact, Zamora had the television program "Pipol" to thank for being able to make it home in time for the town fiesta on July 31.

"(Pipol) asked me if they could in-

terview me and take footages of me at home. But I told them I wasn't scheduled to return this week because the boat I was taking was set to leave on Saturday (Aug. 4) yet," he says.

"Pipol" offered to pay for his plane fare.

Zamora will most likely get a vehicle soon because one of the benefits given to members of the House is a car loan from the Landbank of the Philippines.

Yet even if he gets a car, Zamora says he will still be using his P5,000 alloy mountain bike to go to work.

"I prefer a van because I could lend it to my constituents who might need a vehicle to go around Manila," he says.

"But... if a committee holds a hearing in, say Subic or any other out-of-town venue, I'd rather not take my bike."

rectly to the President, not to the PNP chief.

"How did the creation of these multi-level or dual structure lead to abuses?" he said.

Therefore, the investigations would not only center on Lacson but on PAOCTF as a structure of government, he said.

"We will look at it from the policy point of view. What should be done from the policy level," he said. "It will be a policy inquiry in aid of legislation."



IT'S NEVER too late to don that bathing suit in a beauty contest open to the elderly who have "the nerve."

Beauty is not skin-deep

(From page A1)

It is the first of its kind in the country, according to Pusca president and pageant organizer Luz Gonzalez.

The experience took the women back to their salad days when they were free to just gush and giggle—and try out new things.

The contestants, whose ages ranged from 62 to 85, basked in the applause of the enthusiastic audience.

"This is good for us. At least I don't think much of my husband now," said Fely Rivera, 60 and a widow, who led the lively crowd of kibitzers. "Instead of sulking at home, I go out with my friends here."

The women said the pageant provided a welcome break from running households in the absence of their working children, getting chores done and looking after grandchildren.

"Ever since I started a family of my own, the routine has been the same: wake up, go straight to the laundry, tend to the kids... It's always the same thing," said Contestant No. 10—Magdalena Valenia, 65, of Calamba, Laguna.

So when Gonzalez announced on her weekly radio program that the Pusca was sponsoring a beauty pageant for senior citizens, Valenia grabbed the chance to have fun.

Nerve

Gonzalez had announced that the contest was open to all, "as long as you're a senior citizen and you have the nerve."

And elderly women of all shapes and sizes flocked to the Pusca headquarters in New Manila to register.

Gonzalez said most of the women were members of Pusca and the rest, of various organizations for the elderly—all of whom had never joined a beauty contest before.

Indeed, she said, the most excited ones were those who, even in their youth, were not interested in pageants that focused on physical beauty.

The final batch of contestants traveled to Pansol as early as 4 a.m. last July 26 for the pageant.

She walks tall helping poor

(From page A1)

Maggie mainly teaches catechism and counsels children in her care, now numbering 35. The children, who are all suffering from physical and mental defects or terminal illnesses, have been all but abandoned by their impoverished parents.

She also attends to "referrals," that is, finding further assistance for her wards by networking with other non-government organizations.

Source of comfort

She is teacher, playmate and source of comfort for the blind, deaf, mute, mentally impaired, or those afflicted with cerebral palsy, hydrocephalus and other diseases that are twice painful to the sufferers from the social stigma attached to them.

The core of her gospel is not even about repairing the body, but emasculating the scared, cowering soul: "God did not cause your suffering. People did. God is not punishing you for something wrong you've done, so don't blame yourself."

According to her, it takes time for the message to get through.

"It is not enough that these lessons be delivered in words. They must also manifest in the way the children learn to relate to other people," Maggie explained.

She knows when she's making progress with a child when he or she begins to show some change in attitude.

"Like, if before undergoing the counseling program, the child is too ashamed to talk to or even look other people straight in the eye, now he is more sociable and can express himself freely," she explained.

Maggie talks from experience. She and four other siblings grew up not only wanting in material comfort, but suffering the growing estrangement of their parents. Her father made a living from cutting logs, but would waste his earnings on drink. Her mother struggled to make ends meet by raising some hogs and chickens in the backyard.

Abused child

As a little girl, she was beaten up by her father who would often come home drunk and fight with her mother.

By the time she reached puberty, her parents had separated and gone away, leaving the children in the care of various relatives

and grandparents. They spent the day partying, swimming, and checking out the competition.

"It was a riot," said an amused Gonzalez. "If you could see the women—some with big legs, others with varicose veins, some fat, but all of them having fun and feeling good—you would have been happy, too."

There was the traditional question-and-answer portion at the pageant, as well as the swimwear parade, but the *lolas* skipped the evening gown portion.

The winners, starting from fifth runner-up, will be announced on Oct. 6 as the finale of the fashion show that the Pusca is organizing for the benefit of senior citizens.

Naturally, the pageant contestants will highlight the modeling event.

Respect

"You know, there's more to a woman than her physical beauty," said Nene de Leon, 74. "A truly beautiful girl is one who knows how to respect people, especially her elders, because someday she's going to be old, too."

According to Valenia, today's young people are nothing like they were when they were younger.

"The girls today show off their bodies just like that," she observed. "They always follow the trend, which is not actually bad. But sometimes, they should fit their clothes to the occasion."

And speaking of clothes, the women are in the thick of rehearsals for the fashion show at the Pusca headquarters.

Gonzalez herself designed the gowns with the idea of showing off Philippine culture.

The Pusca is seeking the help of established designers who might want to spice up the fashion show with contributions of their designs and materials.

Gonzalez said the interest and support of members of the young generation would mean a lot to their elders.

"Talent is not something you can bring with you to the grave. We will all be happier if we share it with others while we have the chance," she said.

and grandparents.

Despite everything, Maggie managed to make it through elementary school, with the support of a brother. She said she would often go to class "without eating, or settle for coconut meat for a snack."

Things began to look up when she reached her teens. She finished high school in Negros in 1993 on a scholarship given by a local priest, Fr. Seth Hermoso.

After high school, she boarded a ship to Manila "para makipagsapalaran (to seek my fate)."

A surprise awaited her at the pier. Unknown to her, a girlfriend had arranged for her to be reunited with her mother who had been residing in Quezon City.

By 1994, she was working as a secretary at the Talayan Village Barangay Hall ("Yes, I can type"), earning about P6,000 a month.

New calling

A new calling beckoned in December 1996. After she made that brief, unsolicited appeal at the church forum, she caught the eye of Dalie Garcia, who was to become one of her partners in Green and Purple.

"I basically 'recruited' her after I heard her in that general assembly," Dalie said.

"I think it's her whole physical appearance that easily draws children to her. They would often ask her if she's really just another small child," she said.

"For her to just walk down the street is already a statement for the empowerment of the differently abled," Dalie added.

A Chinese parishioner once offered to give Maggie a wheelchair, thinking that it must be excruciating for her to walk around on her knees.

"But she said, 'No. I can walk. If you want to help me, sir, just give me a car instead,'" Dalie recalled.

Already then living with her mother, stepfather, and a nephew, Dalie was able to raise the money to enroll at a computer school in Muñoz in 1998. Alas, she could not get beyond the sophomore year as the tuition had increased.

Today, with her barangay hall job gone, too (political change of fortune), Maggie has become immersed more than ever in the Green and Purple projects. It's a full-time affair that gives her a monthly allowance of about P2,000 to P3,000, only half the salary she used to get.

"My day begins as early as 5 a.m. when people would come knocking on my door. Maybe a woman neighbor seeking my advice on the family concerns of the day," she said.

The rest of the day the pint-sized Maggie would be walking tall pursuing her vocation and extending her arms in service to anyone who would take them.

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Testing Dates:

October 13, 2001

October 29, 2001

November 3, 2001

November 10, 2001

November 19, 2001

November 17, 2001

BRITISH OPEN

Delasin barges into Top 10

Rotary has P1 million for an ace

THE SEARCH for the next millionaire Rotarian golfer will continue in Davao City on its 15th RGFFP Southern Leg Golf Tournament from Sept. 19-23.

Seaboard Eastern Insurance Co., through its president, Joe Halili-Co, will again stake P1 million in cash for a hole-in-one feat.

PDG Oskie de Venecia, chair of the RGFFP, recalls that Rotarians, in past tournaments, who have made aces include Douglas Yu of RC University District (1987), Dwight Penson of RC Las Piñas (1991), Bernie Jambalos of RC Panday Pira (1992), Victor Villarosa of RC Bacolod-Marapara (1996) and PP Ato Magadia of RC Makati North (1997).

Rotarians from RC Bagumbayan, RC Makati, RC Makati West, RC Makati North, RC Manila, RC Davao West, RC Cebu Port Center, RC Baguio North, and RC Pasig are among the early registrants.

Defending overall champions RC East Rizal and division defending champions RC Carmen Valley West, RC Tacloban, RC Makati Southwest and RC San Juanico are expected to defend their respective titles.

For more information, call RGFFP Office c/o Ditas Serapio or Theresa Romero at tel. 7210564 and fax no. 7215940, e-mail: rgffp@iemail.com

For participants from the South, call PP Sonny Garcia of RC West Davao at tel. (082)2242497.

Women allowed to go racing

SEATTLE—Jackie Doty and her crew at Lynx Racing set out to find a motivated rookie racer they could mentor and mold. There was one stipulation: This time, they wanted a woman.

Three years ago, Lynx discovered Sara Senske, then a 19-year-old racer from Kennewick, Washington, who wanted to drive faster than the men.

"I get the occasional tacky remark, like, 'So, are you fast?'" Senske said. "Well, yeah. Duh!"

Doty, co-owner of California-based Lynx Racing, said times have changed since she was a little girl. Now, many girls are breaking into the sport, racing their go-karts.

"It's really cool there's a new generation of girls that get to start on the same level as guys and work up the system," she said. "It's always been a good ol' boys network. Hopefully we'll have a good ol' girls network, and it won't matter what sex you are."

And female drivers are starting to get some attention from team owners like Doty, and sponsors are very slowly getting into the act.

In June, Shawna Robinson became the first woman to drive in a Winston Cup race since 1989. Robinson was again sponsored by Tropicana in her attempt to make the Brickyard 400 in Indianapolis on Sunday. AP

Car racer dies following crash

ROSSBURG, Ohio—A 61-year-old sprint-car driver died Friday, hours after crashing during a race at Eldora Speedway.

John Bankston, of Beaumont, Texas, crashed into the wall Thursday night during the All-Star Sprint Series feature.

Bankston was taken to Mercer County Community Hospital in Coldwater, where he died early Friday, hospital spokesman Ken Obringer said.

The coroner is investigating the cause of death, Obringer said. AP

Bandal upset in P2.2-M chess

BACOLOD CITY—Nine players, three of them non-titled, prevailed over their respective opponents Friday to advance into the next round of the ongoing P2.2-million Glutaphos-Philippine Chess Grand Prix at the Sugarland Hotel in Bacolod City.

Non-titled Vicente Lee III of Sagay City repeated an upset win over topseed National Master Judge Rosendo Bandal in 37 moves of a Ruy Lopez to join NMs Eric Gloria of Bacolod City, Ernesto Jayme (Iloilo), Alexander Lupian (St. Tomas, Davao), Reggie Olay (Davao), Rogelio Vergaño (Cagayan de Oro), Ernesto Fernandez (Pagadian), Josevit Tapulgo (Bacolod City) and Fami Fazon (Surigao) into the next round of this event sponsored by Pascual Laboratories.



DELASIN: With a big rebound yesterday, title within sight. FILE PHOTO

DOROTHY Joy Delasin lost control of another torrid start but still barged into the Top 10 of the \$1.5 million Weetabix Women's British Open, holding her own against a European charge with a three-under-par 69 in the second round yesterday.

Buoyed by an eagle on the par-4 third hole, Delasin was in hot pursuit of Scot Catriona Matthew's front-running 9-under-par card with a five-under stint through 15 holes. The reigning LPGA Rookie of the Year, however, bogeyed the 16th and 18th.

Delasin's closing mistakes left her five shots behind Matthew, who fired a 65 for 135 to take the lead in the chase for the \$225,000 first prize in Sunningdale, Berkshire, England.

Trish Johnson (67) of England, first round leader Janice Moodie (70) of Scotland and Korean Mi Hyun Kim (65) were two shots back at 137, Johanna Head (70) of England stood in fifth at 138 while American Rosie Jones (69) occupied sixth at 139.

With her steady form, Delasin is very much in the running for her second straight crown after keeping her Giant Eagle LPGA Classic crown last week

in Vienna, Ohio. She's also had five Top 10 finishes in 18 LPGA starts this season aside from a sixth place windup in the Evian Masters leg of the Ladies Euro Tour in France.

Delasin, already with \$416,145 in winnings this season, had a six-under card on her first five holes on Thursday. But she had a 40 coming home and settled for a 71.

She's paired for the third round today with unknown Elizabeth Esteri, one of the six players in the group at 140, at 1:40 p.m.

Karrie Webb rebounded from a disappointing 74 with a 67 and was at 141 like the favored Laura Davies (73) and Se Ri Pak (70).

Norway's Suzann Pettersen claimed the low round of the day by scoring an eight-under-par 64. Pettersen's eagle on the 455-yard par-5, 10th with a 3-iron to eight feet aided her low score. She is now in a six-way tie in 22nd place at 142.

The cut was pegged at 146 and included 70 players. Filipino Jennifer Rosales, however, was not among them as she finished at 146 after a 72, her bid severely hurt by an opening-round 80.

Jong Arcano

Cink leads by 2

CASTLE ROCK, Colorado—Buoyed by a lucky bounce, Stewart Cink stormed into the early 36-hole lead Friday with a seven-birdie, bogey-free round in The International.

Cink, who has six top-10 finishes and stands 22nd on the PGA Tour's money list this season, scored 14 points in his second round for a total of 22.

He was 2 points better than Edward Fryatt and Chris DiMarco under the modified Stableford scoring system that awards a player 5 points for an eagle, 2 points for birdie, zero for par, minus-1 for bogey and minus-3 for double bogey or worse.

Tom Pernice Jr., still on the course, had 20 points, and Sergio Garcia and Justin Leonard finished at 19. AP

Westwood 1 shot up

LODDEKOPINGE, Sweden—Lee Westwood finished with four straight birdies for a second successive 67 and a one-stroke lead Friday halfway through the Scandinavian Masters.

Westwood had a 36-hole total of 10 under par on Barseback's seaside course in southern Sweden. Ian Poulter, another Englishman, and Colin Montgomerie of Scotland, shared second. Poulter had the lowest score of the day, a 65.

The two-time defending champion, Westwood has struggled in recent months and missed the cut in four of his last six tournaments.

"It's great to be back on top on the leaderboard, that's where you want to be," said Westwood, who won his two Scandinavian titles on two other Swedish courses in 1996 and last year. AP

Rafter advances; Roddick gets door from Romanian

MONTREAL—Ninth-seeded Patrick Rafter of Australia advanced into the semifinals in the \$2.95 million Tennis Masters Series-Canada, beating fourth-seeded Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain, 7-5, 4-6, 6-2.

Andrei Pavel of Romania also advanced, upsetting teen-age star Andy Roddick, 6-4, 6-7 (2), 6-3 on Friday.

Rafter will face the winner of a late match between Fabrice Santoro of France and Bohdan Ulihrach of the Czech Republic.

Rafter, the 1998 champion in Toronto, broke Ferrero's serve twice in the first and third sets in a fine display of shot-making in his first tournament

since losing to Goran Ivanisevic in the Wimbledon final.

"My groundstrokes were really good tonight and I hope it'll be the same in the semifinals," said Rafter, the 1998 winner in Toronto. "Juan Carlos is a great player. He's starting to believe he can play on fast courts and that makes it dangerous for everybody else."

Pavel will face Germany's Tommy Haas in the semifinals. Haas beat 10th-seeded Arnaud Clement of France 6-2, 6-4.

Pavel broke Roddick only twice - for a 2-1 lead in the first set and a 4-2 lead in the third.



MONICA Seles: 6-3-6-3 winner over Jennifer Capriati, who complained that Seles' grunting disturbed her. AP

ATHLETES' SAFETY

Garcia initiates dengue fumigation

ANTICIPATING the possible exposure to the dangers of dengue and related illnesses of national athletes bound for the Southeast Asian Games, Philippine Sports Commissioner Ricardo Garcia yesterday said that their quarters at the Rizal Sports Complex and Philsports Arena in Pasig would be fumigated regularly.

Through the initiative of Garcia, co-chair of the Sea Games Task Force and officer-in-charge of the

PSC, the Department of Health is taking charge of the fumigation work, made necessary by the alarming rise of dengue cases in the city and in various parts of the country.

DOH officials have already assured the PSC of full cooperation regarding the matter with the other members of the PSC board commissioners, Butch Ramirez, Weena Lim and Cynthia Carrion, also giving the needed support.

"We would like the athletes to stay safe in their quarters and keep their focus on training. We cannot afford to lose any of our top athletes to serious illnesses like dengue especially now that we are in the final stretch of our preparations for the SEA Games," said Garcia.

The Games will be held from Sept. 8-17, with the Philippines expected to send a fair-sized delegation.

Garcia added that they have asked the firm handling the janitorial services of the two training facilities to ensure cleanliness and comfortability.

"We will have random checks and we will make the maintenance firms partly liable for any health case related to the living conditions," he said. "We are seeing to it that this basic aspect of the athletes' well-being is being addressed."

Newcomers take limelight

AFTER the likes of Wind Blown, Silver Story and the rest of the veterans have taken the backseat for a while, it's now time for the rookies to strut their wares before the *bayang kareristas*.

Two-year-old horses, those who are called juveniles, take the limelight starting today in the first leg of the 2001 Juvenile Colts Championship.

The event serves as the kickoff for the ostentatious program by the Philracom called Juvenile Stakes Calendar wherein future Wind Blows and Silver Stories may come from. And who knows, some of those seeing action in this project

might race against those champions in the near future?

Today's P400,000 main event at San Lazaro features four newcomers battling over 900 meters but my *Silip Boy* said Bidang Bida appears to have the edge over Always Florence and coupled bets Nuts Again and Perfect Storm.

By the way, the race will be held in honor of Nevada Star, the former Rolly Rojas galloper who reigned as 1996's undisputed two-year-old champion. The speed horse was then the early pick to win the Triple Crown in 1997 but illness cut the dark bay colt's career short.

Up next in the five-month

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva



championship with a pot of more than P4 million is the Confetti Stakes race at Santa Ana where Art of Rose, Blink and Wink, D Raven, Indy's Quest and Tigra collide.

September features the Hombre Stakes (9th) and Valentine Party Stakes (16th), before the Philtobo

Mitra Cup Championships at San Lazaro on Oct. 14 and Marho Breeders' Cup at Santa Ana on Nov. 18.

Highlighting the event are the P1-million-added Strong Material Championship (Dec. 2) and P300,000-added Marho-Philtoho Juvenile Challenge (Dec. 29).

Kareristas' reactions/comments on that unforgettable Silver Story setback to Sonata on July 1 just keep on pouring.

And one of those who sent us a very interesting mail was Rudy Austria of Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila. Space permitting, we'll share Rudy's views with you next Sunday.

Doable for Dot

ONE eagle and four birdies in the first five holes. Tiger Woods, at 24 the world's No. 1 already, has yet to do that. It will now be improbable for Jack Nicklaus, the golfer of the century, to achieve that; he is 61.

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

So, when Dorothy Joy Delasin, Dot to her friends, did that in the first round of the ongoing British Open in Sunningdale, England, she rewrote the record books. And to think that she will only turn 21 on Aug. 26.

Here's a glass to Dot. So young, so skilled.

Five birdies in five holes will be hard to beat already. I guess someone's done that already. But an eagle and four birdies in five holes?

The streamer's up: Watch this girl, Dot. Only 20 years old, Dot may yet become the world's next most important golfer in the 10 years or so.

Dot's hot start in the British Open came just days after she rallied from four strokes to win the Giant Eagle Classic in Vienna, Ohio. Dot fired a 7-under-par 65 to win by one following two 69s. She pocketed \$150,000 for the victory, the same paycheck she earned when she won the same tournament last year as a rookie in the LPGA.

But in England two days ago, Dot, whose parents are from Dumaguete, blew her 6-under in five holes with mental mistakes hounding her like demons, starting on the eighth.

"I was playing solid golf and everything was going right until the bunker on the eighth when I didn't get it up and down," she said. "The harder I tried, the worse it got—just like a quicksand."

She threw away five strokes on the last eight holes for a 1-under-par 71, four shots behind the leader.

"But this was just one day," she said. "I have three days left and I can make it up. Today's mistakes were mental mistakes."

In yesterday's second round, she made good her promise. She had a 69. It would have been a 67 had she not bogeyed 16 and 18.

Dot eagled the third hole again yesterday.

There are two more rounds left. And Dot is only five strokes behind Catriona Matthew, the leader from Scotland, who had a 65.

Don't look now but if Dot wins again, I'll not be surprised. Before last week's victory in Ohio, she was a consistent contender. She's had five Top 10 finishes this season.

Today's third round is crucial. If Dot manages to stay close with the leaders—if not grab the lead—after today's round, expect her to slug it out with her chief rivals tomorrow. Her big heart and the momentum of the Ohio triumph will most likely spell victory anew for this gutsy lass of only 20 summers.

Gumban too much for Salvacion

KRIS Lorraine Gumban and Katrina Sta. Ana scored similar wins yesterday to advance in the girls' 18-under second-round of the Philta Classic III Age Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Gumban defeated Meg Salvacion, 6-1, 6-1, while Sta. Ana outplayed Ana Martinez, 6-1, 6-1.

In the boys' 12-under division, Jonathan Murrell downed John Allan Gumataadcan, 6-1, 6-0; Mark Balce outclassed Julius de Guzman, 6-1, 6-1; and Jose Lorenzo Opulencia clobbered Christopher Borlongan, 6-1, 6-0 to advance in the next round of this two-weekend tournament sponsored by PSC, Pacific East Asia Cargo and Dunlop balls.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO By Mr. 999

- | | |
|--|---|
| Race 1—1. Celebration 2. Ginger Baker 3. Sham Sham 4. Fortunato | Race 7—1. Bldang Bida 2. Nuts Again/ Perfect Storm |
| Race 2—1. Extraordinaire 2. Mr. Lucas 3. Victoria Scarlet 4. With Feeling | Race 8—1. Howard Huge 2. Accommoating 3. Forever Royale |
| Race 3—1. Simply Great 2. Yallah's Princess 3. Worth Ur Whilo 4. Malaita Eagle | Race 9—1. Breakaway Artist 2. Allusion 3. Queen Storm 4. Exchange Deal |
| Race 4—1. Front Page/Heavy Metal 2. May's Magic 3. Better Harry 4. Sir Olizon | Race 10—1. Hot Number 2. Ocean Magic 3. Ready Aim Fire 4. Meal Ticket 5. Moving Target |
| Race 5—1. My Preperido 2. Staunch Ally 3. Master Ijhay 4. Lucky El 2. D Pen Traveller 3. Royal Harvest 4. Contra Barata 5. Marissa's Diane | Race 11—1. Venus 2. Ultimate Prize 3. Aya's Dream 4. Gold and Dollar |
| | Race 12—1. Manlaman 2. Magic Fingers 3. Hong Kong Treasure 4. Passionately 5. Filthy Rich |

SPORTS ON TV COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIT

GOLF: 86th Philippine Open 2001 Highlights at 12 noon (r) on Star Sports
PGA—The International, Third Round at 1 p.m. (r-11:30 p.m.) on Star Sports
Golfglobe 2001 at 5:30 p.m. on Star Sports
TENNIS: Mercedes-Benz Tennis Masters Series (Montreal), Men's Semifinal Match #1 at 1 p.m. (r), Men's Semifinal Match #2 at 3 p.m. (r-8 p.m.), Men's Final tomorrow at 1 a.m. on ESPN
ATP Tennis Show at 7:30 p.m. on ESPN

Iverson marrying in Jersey

PHILADELPHIA—Not even the guests know where Allen Iverson and Tawanna Turner will be getting married. But all signs point to New Jersey. The couple has applied for a marriage license in Voorhees Township. The event, expected to be attended by several NBA stars, was expected to take place at the Mansion, a catering facility known for lavish parties.

Sunday SPORTS

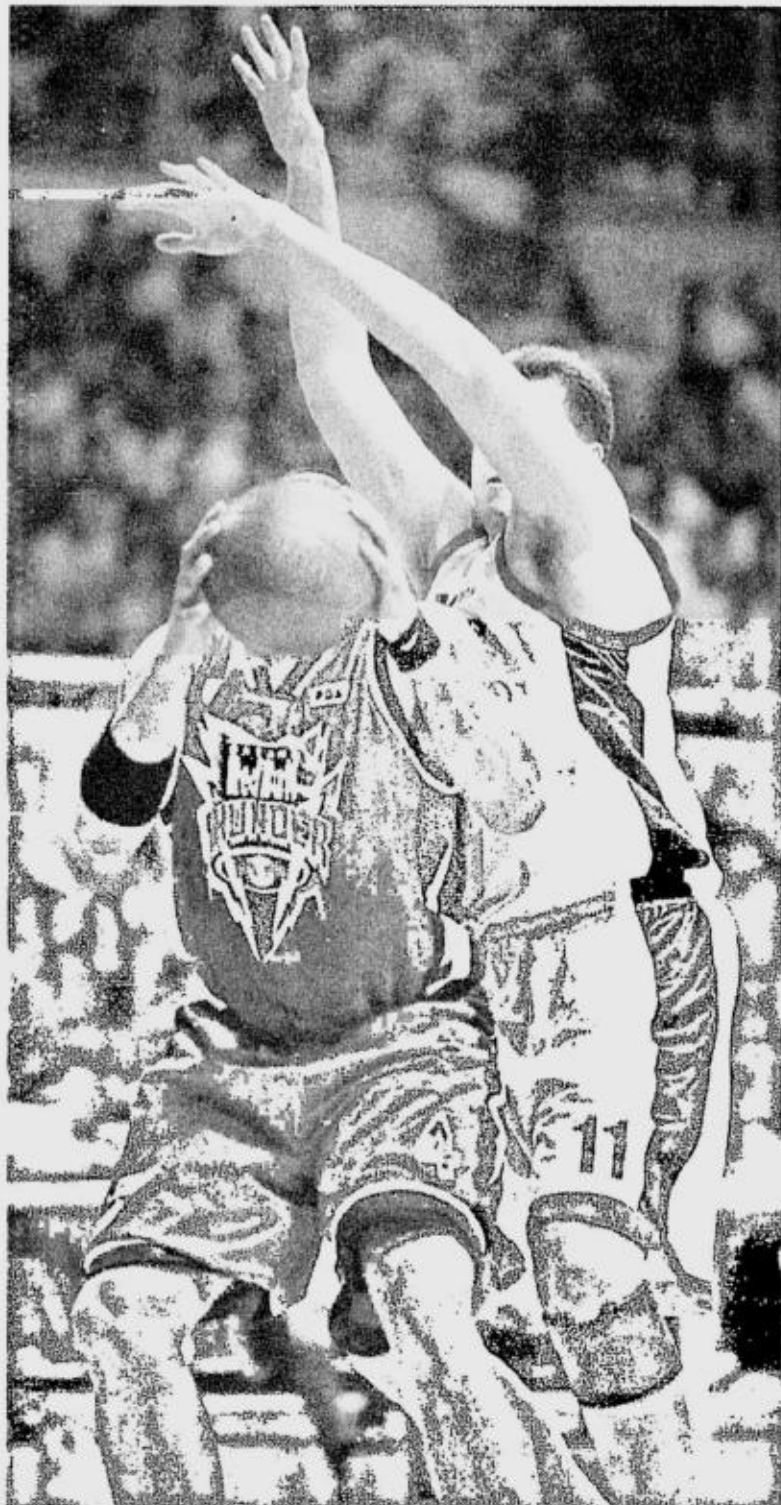
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Hakeem 'citizen of the world'

HOUSTON—Hakeem Olajuwon, bidding farewell to Houston, said his move to Toronto is a way to express himself as an "international citizen of the world." The Houston Rockets completed a sign-and-trade agreement Thursday night that sent one of the city's greatest sports heroes to the Raptors for first- and second-round draft picks.

PBA COMMISSIONER'S CUP

SMB, Red Bull gun for finals slots



GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:15 p.m. — Purefoods vs Red Bull
6:30 p.m. — Alaska vs San Miguel

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

THERE'S an established trend in PBA best-of-five semifinals series: The last three teams that won Game 3 after a 1-1 tie went on to clinch the finals seat in Game 4.

San Miguel Beer and Batang Red Bull hope to keep that tradition alive when they shoot for the Commissioner's Cup championship slots against embattled rivals today

at the Araneta Coliseum.

Both holding 2-1 edge, the Beermen and the Thunder can wrap up the series against Alaska Milk and Purefoods, respectively, in Game 4 of the twin semis series.

"We don't want the momentum to shift to Alaska," said SMB coach Jong Uichico after his team posted an 80-74 victory over Alaska Friday night. "So we'll go for it on Sunday."

The Beermen, the defending champions this conference, are looking for their fourth straight championship appearance and

hoping to prime themselves up for a grand slam this season.

Incidentally, the last team to achieve that feat was Alaska, which captured four titles in a row when it won the 1995 Governors Cup en route to taking the Grand Slam in 1996.

In Game 3 last Friday, San Miguel dominated Alaska on all fronts, posting leads that went to as many as 27 points through superb shooting and solid interior defense.

However, Alaska coach Tim Cone said he wasn't concerned over

San Miguel's sharpness as much as he was bothered by the officiating.

"I don't want to comment on the way they handled the game, everybody saw it," said Cone, who was thrown out with still 4:26 left in the third quarter for making a outburst over officiating.

Red Bull is looking for its first-ever championship appearance with a victory today against Purefoods.

The Thunder beat the Hotdogs (100-86) last Friday for their second straight win in their separate series after losing Game

Ateneo rips UP; NU shocks UST

BY DENNIS U. EROA

ATENEU waylaid University of the Philippines, 63-50, but the biggest roar came from National University which stunned University of Santo Tomas, 83-80, yesterday in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Loyola Gym.

The Blue Eagles shackled the high-scoring Michael Bravo and then leaned on the inside game of Enrico Villanueva and the snipings of Magnum Membrere and Larry Fonacier as Ateneo forced a three-way tie for the lead with defending champion La Salle and Far Eastern University with its fourth win in five games.

Firing blanks, the Maroons also entered the record books by scoring two points, courtesy of rookie Kenneth Robin, in the second quarter which ended at 29-17 in favor of the Eagles. UP finished the second quarter with a woeful 1-of-20 field goal shooting and its 50-point production was also a season-low.

Earlier, the Bulldogs blanked the Tigers in the final four minutes to score their third win against as many losses. UST slumped to 1-4, its worst start since 1988. UP is also 1-4.

Only Adamson is faring worst in the eight-team field with five straight losses, and 0-19 since Luigi Trillo took over as coach a year ago.

"Worst game I ever seen," UP mentor Ryan Gregorio described his team's stand. Bravo, who came to the ballgame with an average of 22 points, finished with 10 (4-of-15 field goal), Abby Santos had 10 (2-of-11 free throws), while Rob Bormancin went scoreless. The Maroons also converted just 8-of-28 from the free throw line.

Trailing by seven, 73-80, the Bulldogs limited the Tigers to a lone free throw, while scoring 10 points in a row which iced the victory. Nino Gelig also committed three of UST's five turnovers in that stretch.

First game
NU 83—Napa 21, Neo 17, Grijaldo 12, Baguion 10, Manabat 6, Tolentino 4, De Castro 4, Cajayon 4, Mendoza 3, Sanico 2, Urbano 0.

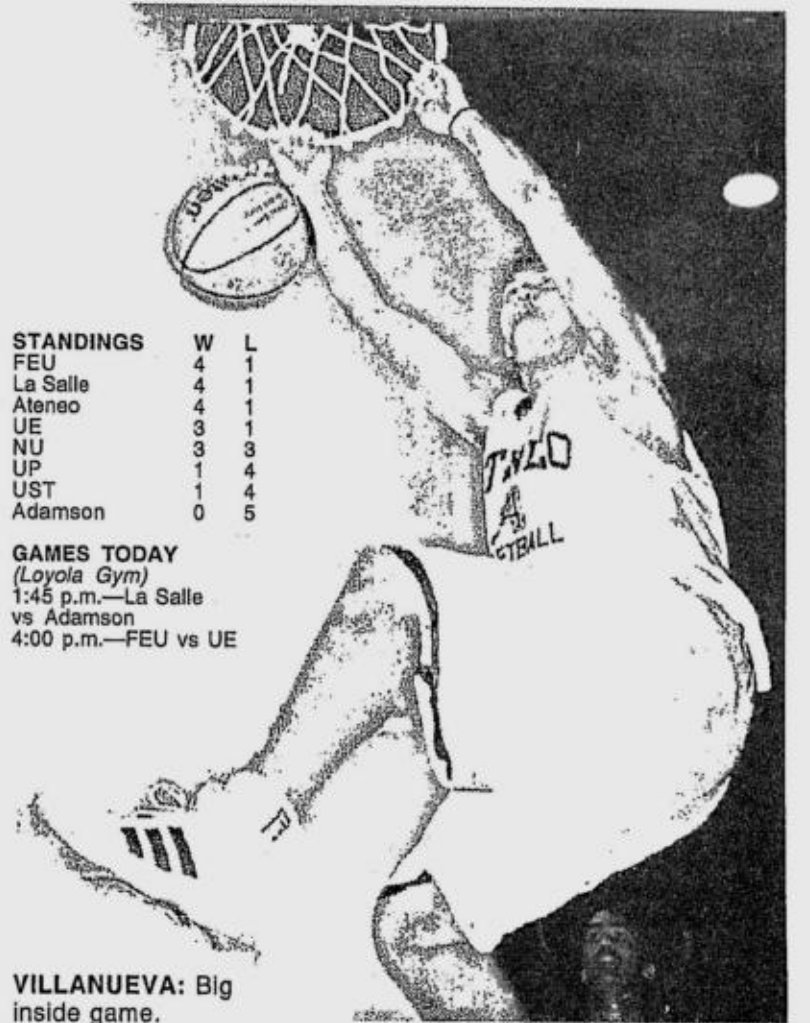
UST 80—Gelig 22, Hubalde 12, Rateria 11, Oreta 7, Nanninga 7, Espiritu 6, De Guzman 5, Villamin 4, Luanzon 4, Agleron 2, Manansala 0.

Second game
ATENEU 63—Villanueva 14, Tenorio 9, Fonacier 8, Sison 8, Alvarez 6, Membrere 6, Cruz 6, Bugia 4, Tan Chl 2, Chia 0, Elmido 0.
UP 50—Bravo 10, Santos 10, Madarang 10, Robin 6, Jomalesa 5, Almeda 4, Arnaiz 2, Cervantes 2, Nunag 1, Celio 0, Bormancin 0.
Quarters: 19-15, 29-17, 44-34, 63-50.

STANDINGS	W	L
FEU	4	1
La Salle	4	1
Ateneo	4	1
UE	3	3
NU	3	3
UP	1	4
UST	1	4
Adamson	0	5

GAMES TODAY (Loyola Gym)
1:45 p.m.—La Salle vs Adamson
4:00 p.m.—FEU vs UE

VILLANUEVA: Big inside game.



PUREFOODS center EJ Feihl (right) applies an umbrella defense over Red Bull forward Devonn Harp during Game 3 of their PBA semifinals series Friday. The Thunder won, 100-86, and took a 2-1 lead.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Knights, Blades eye MBA semis berths

STANDINGS	W	L
San Juan	10	3
LBC Batangas	10	3
Cebu Lhuillier	10	4
Negros	9	4
FedEx Laguna	7	7
Nueva Ecija	3	10
Davao	3	11
Socargen	2	12

GAMES TODAY (La Salle Lipa Gym)
3:00 p.m.—Nueva Ecija vs Batangas
5:30 p.m.—San Juan vs Negros

BY ROY LUARCA

IT'S rumble at the top as the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase ends its elimination round today.

Pacesetters LBC Batangas and Andok's San Juan tackle separate opponents at different venues, seeking wins that would give them outright semifinal seats.

The Batangas Blades face the Nueva Ecija Patriots at 3 p.m. at the De La Salle Lipa Gym, while the San Juan Knights meet the Negros Slashers at the University of St. La Salle Gym in Bacolod City.

If the Blades and the Knights lose, a four-way tie would ensue among them, the Slashers and the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems and the quotient system needs to be applied to determine the elimination rankings.

The ranking is important because the top three enters the semis outright while the No. 4 team will have to figure in a knockout showdown with the FedEx Laguna Lakers, the No. 5 finisher after the double-round eliminations.

Batangas, of course, is expected to have an easier time than San Juan because Nueva Ecija is out of contention at 3-10. Add to that the fact that the Blades routed the Patriots, 90-76, in their first encounter.

The Patriots were also sluggish as they bowed to the Davao Eagles, 104-93, on Friday.



LBC Batangas' Romel Adducul (10) blocks a shot by FedEx Laguna's Jeffrey Flowers during the Blades-Lakers tussle in the MBA First Phase at the La Salle Lipa Gym recently. Batangas won, 103-85.

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ERRATUM
Michael Oliver Gavino was wrongly identified as Michael Christian Vainio in last Thursday's caption of the UAAP photo. We apologize for the error.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE			
	W	L	Pct GB
New York	66	43	.605
Boston	60	47	.561 5
Toronto	51	59	.464 15 1/2
Baltimore	45	65	.409 21 1/2
Tampa Bay	36	75	.320 30
Central			
Minnesota	62	47	.569
Cleveland	61	47	.565 1/2
Chicago	53	54	.495 8
Detroit	46	61	.430 15
Kansas City	43	66	.394 19
West			
Seattle	79	30	.725
Oakland	59	50	.541 20
Anaheim	56	53	.514 23
Texas	49	59	.454 29
	1/2		

NATIONAL LEAGUE			
	W	L	Pct GB
Atlanta	61	46	.569
Philadelphia	59	50	.541 2
Florida	55	54	.505 6
New York	50	60	.455 11 1/2
Montreal	47	63	.427 14 1/2
Central			
Chicago	63	45	.583
Houston	60	49	.550 3 1/2
St. Louis	55	53	.509 8
Minnesota	47	60	.439 15 1/2
Cincinnati	45	63	.417 18
Pittsburgh	41	67	.380 22
West			
Arizona	61	46	.569
Los Angeles	61	49	.554 1/2
San Francisco	61	49	.554 1/2
	1/2		

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Toronto 10, Baltimore 5, 1st game; Detroit 1, N.Y. Yankees 4, Anaheim 2, Seattle 2, Cleveland 1; Minnesota 8, Kansas City 7, 10 innings; Chicago White Sox 4, Tampa Bay 0, Texas at Boston, p.p.d., rain.
NATIONAL LEAGUE
St. Louis 9, Florida 5, 1st game; Florida 6, St. Louis 4, 2nd game; Houston 6, Montreal 2, Milwaukee 3, Atlanta 2, 11 innings; Colorado 12, Pittsburgh 7, Arizona 7, N.Y. Mets 0, Cincinnati 9, San Diego 2; Chicago Cubs 2, Los Angeles 1; San Francisco 4, Philadelphia 2.

10 YEARS AGO

Herman Suizo and Aresia Sagaray ruled their respective divisions in the 9th Magnolia 20K International Marathon at the Luneta Grandstand. Suizo raced past Mario Castro to win in 1:04.16, while Sagaray edged Sunita Anand Godara of India in 1:15.58 to fortify their bid in the Manila SEA Games.

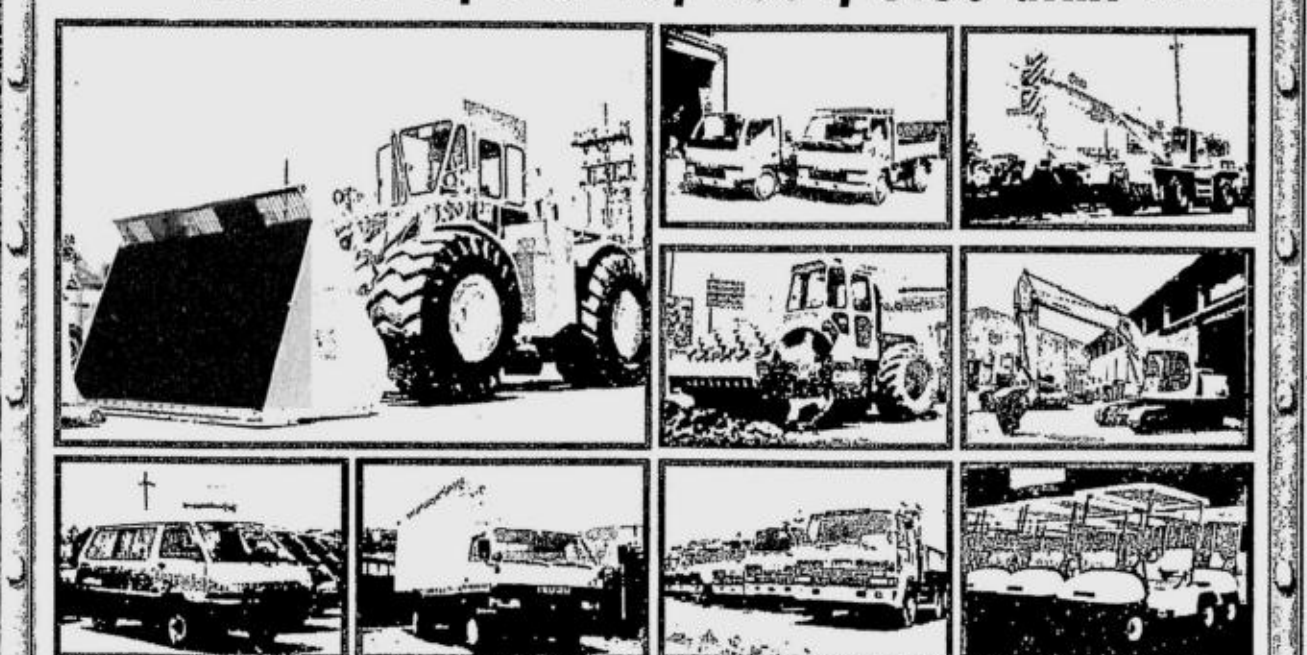
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984-0278/79

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AUGUST 3

6pm

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1pm to 6pm

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6:30pm

myGlobe No Limits Concert: Featuring Silk and Passage.

7:30pm

"Bridget Jones's Diary" Premiere: Glorietta 4, Cinema 6 (Invitation required)

9:00pm

myGlobe "G NIGHT": Glorietta 4, Lobby, a one-night-only party at the place formerly known as Stars. Official bar host: WhereElse?

AUGUST 5

10am to 6pm

myGlobe Interactivity Booths open: Register at the different booths, play the games, bid on hot items, and get to win special prizes courtesy of McDonald's, Selecta Cornetto, and Ayala Mall merchants.

4pm to 6pm

Launch of Donita Rose Website: Chat with your favorite MTV VJ online or through Globe Mobile Chat, and be one of the first to surf to her official website.



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Law grad
shot in Quiapo
A22

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Janitor, 27, nabbed
for raping pupil, 12
A22

QC fire kills 6

Cops seek newsman
who quarreled with
lover before blaze

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

A ONE-HOUR fire broke out in a Quezon City apartment early yesterday, killing six people, including a pregnant woman and two boys.

Of the six victims, only housewife Violeta Robles, 28; and a housemaid named Imelda, were identified. Imelda was allegedly pregnant, said arson investigator Insp. Samuel Tadeo, of the Quezon City Fire District II.

The rest of the victims—two other women and two boys—were charred beyond recognition, Tadeo said.

He learned later that the uniden-

tified victims were Robles' relatives who were visiting from Bayombong, Nueva Ecija.

Tadeo said police are looking for Robles' live-in partner, whom he identified as Philip Ilustre or Philip Lustre, whose car was allegedly seen near the two-story apartment at 54 Malakas Street in Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City, about 3 a.m.

The victims' neighbors told police they heard the man quarrelling with Robles before the fire broke out.

Electricity allegedly had been cut off in the apartment unit occupied by Robles because she could not pay the bill. Police said the neigh-

QC FIRE/A22



THE REMAINS of Violeta Robles are taken by funeral parlor workers.

EDWIN BACASMAS



SUSANO

Wisdom of a web site wiz

BY MARICRIS IRENE V. TAMOLANG

OLIVER Susano dreamt big and aimed high. The lack of a formal college education did not faze him. It was an uphill climb, but it paid off.

TALES OF THE CITY

Susano, now 27, is the seventh of eight children. His father didn't have a stable job and had a hard time making enough money to feed the children.

Susano remembers how his father did all he could to send all his children to school. And Susano shared in his struggle.

"My father has been a good example to us," says Susano, a resident of Mandaluyong City. "I succeeded in the same way he did. I persevered like he did."

When Susano was taking up the two-year programming course at the Infotech Computer School in Mandaluyong, his teachers asked him to teach computer subjects on the side. Although he was still an undergraduate, he did not hesitate. He took the offer.

THE WISDOM/A22

Man who beheaded wife, kid captured

BY TONETTE OREJAS
AND GREG REFRACCION,
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The hunt for the suspect in the beheading and cutting up of the bodies of his common-law wife and her son in Pilar, Bataan yesterday ended in Camarines Norte.

Police arrested Reynaldo Trinidad at 2 a.m. yesterday in Barangay San Vicente in Daet, Camarines Norte, three days after he allegedly beheaded and chopped the bodies of Cynthia Calimbas and her 2-year-old son Al John or AJ.

Police reports earlier identified Trinidad as Reynaldo Ramos. Ramos is his mother's maiden name.

Supt. Allen Bantolo, intelligence and investigation division chief of the Central Luzon police, said members of the Philippine National Police

MAN WHO/A22



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QC fire kills 6

(From page A21)

bors did not do anything when they heard the couple quarreling because they had gotten used to hearing them fight.

Although arson investigators suspect that an unattended candle might have started the blaze, they were puzzled by the presence of a liquefied petroleum gas tank on the ground floor near the main entrance.

"Why did we find it there and not beside the gas stove in the kitchen?" Tadeo said.

The arson investigator said it could not have been an extra LPG tank because they checked the stove in the kitchen on the ground floor and found no tank attached to the stove.

The neighbors said the LPG tank was still spewing flames even after the fire had been put out.

The gas tank is still intact and is in the custody of the CPD Scene of the Crime Operations team.

Tadeo said Ilustre or Lustre reportedly wrote for the Manila Bulletin in the early 1990s but has since left jour-

nalism to become a businessman.

Tadeo said photographers who went to the fire scene recognized the man's face in pictures in Robles' apartment.

But the office of the Bulletin editor in chief denied that a "Philip Ilustre" or "Philip Lustre" worked at the newspaper.

Tadeo said the fire broke out about 6:45 a.m. on the first floor of the apartment. Neighbors called the authorities when they saw thick smoke coming out of the apartment.

The arson investigator noted that the apartment had no fire escape. There was only a small hole in a room on the second floor, but it was covered by a metal grill.

When firefighters arrived, the fire had spread to the second floor, where the bodies of Imelda, the two women, and two boys were found.

"They were totally burned," Tadeo said. "The four were found on the east side of the second floor. Robles was partially burned but she was also dead when we found her on the west side."

Tadeo estimated property damage at P2 million.



THE BURNT bodies of the victims were found in a second floor room.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Law grad shot dead in Quiapo

BY JEROME ANING

LAW graduate Datulna Mamalapat, 28, will never know if he passed the bar examination he took last Sunday. He was shot and killed by an unidentified man at the Quiapo Islamic Center in Manila yesterday afternoon.

SPO1 Steve Casimiro of the Western Police District homicide section said Mamalapat was at the corner of Gunao and Globo de Oro streets just in front of the mosque when he was shot around 2 p.m.

Mamalapat, a municipal government employee of Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao and a temporary resident of 106 Manuel L. Quezon St., Purok 2, Lower Bicutan, Taguig, suffered gunshot wounds in the head and left chest. He died on the spot.

His cousin Laiza Salilaquie, 33, told SPO1 Casimiro that Mamalapat went to Quiapo yesterday morning to meet a friend identified only as Leav. She said her cousin had just taken the Sharia Islamic bar exam last Sunday and was set to return to Maguindanao.

Investigators have yet to determine the identity of the suspect or the motive for the killing. They said residents in the area were reluctant to come forward and testify.

'Priest' nabbed for shoplifting at SM North Edsa

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

EDGARDO Alcantara, who claimed to be a Catholic priest, apparently could not wait for Shoemart's weekend sale.

Alcantara, 32, was taken to the Central Police District's Station II in Baler after he was caught shoplifting at SM North Edsa in Quezon City on Thursday.

Alcantara, who gave his address as 104 Seminary Road, Project 8, Quezon City, was arrested after he allegedly took several T-shirts at the SM department store on the ground floor of the mall, said desk officer PO2 Jose Ariel Petilla of the Baler station.

The shirts were worth about P1,000, police said.

At the police station, Alcantara introduced himself as a parish priest in Barangay Bahay Toro.

But the Inquirer research department did not find his name in the Catholic Directory.

But an SM guard in civilian clothes saw Alcantara and nabbed him before he could escape.

Alcantara was charged with shoplifting at the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office on Friday afternoon, Petilla said.

But the fiscal handling the case ordered Alcantara's release and instructed the lawmen to conduct a more thorough investigation of the charges.

Money courier firm robbed

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

A MONEY COURIER service firm in Quezon City lost P1.5 million to robbers on Friday.

Employees of the Gemini Exchange International, at 43 Visayas Ave., Quezon City, told investigators that four armed men broke into their office and took the money.

It took the suspects only five minutes to barge in and rob the office, said PO3 Ferdinand Paredes of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Man who...

(From page A21)

Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and policemen in Bataan tracked down Trinidad through his mother.

The search took the CIDG and the Bataan police to Tondo and Malabon in Metro Manila, south of Bataan, where the suspect is known to have relatives.

Trinidad, 24, also hid in the house of a relative in Camarines Norte, more than 500 km east of Bataan, police learned.

The municipal trial court in Pilar, Bataan, where the murders of Calimbas and her son happened, issued an arrest warrant for Trinidad, according to Supt. Perfecto Palad, Bataan police chief.

At 7 a.m. yesterday, Bataan police were reported escorting Trinidad back to Camp Tolentino in Balanga City, Bataan.

His police escorts reported that Trinidad was silent throughout the trip, neither confessing to the murders nor admitting his motive.

Pilar residents discovered the chopped remains of Calimbas, 30, and her son in a plastic bag on the bank of the town's Stn. Roca River, police said.

The neighbors said that early Wednesday, they heard Trinidad and Calimbas quarreling over the woman's plan to end their relationship.

Relatives of the victims said Calimbas did not introduce Trinidad to them. They said they learned that Trinidad was a former waiter in a bar in Balanga City and had been confined in a drug rehabilitation center.

Guard nabbed for role in Metrobank rob try

BY ALCUIN PAPA

POLICE yesterday arrested a security guard of the Metrobank branch that was attacked by four armed men in Pasay City on Friday on suspicion he was involved in the foiled heist.

Supt. Alex Gutierrez, chief of the Pasay City police, said the guard, Jim Deodoro, was positively identified by witness Andrew Villanueva.

Villanueva told police that at 9:45 a.m. Friday, during the robbery attempt, he heard gunshots and turned to see Deodoro at the back of the bank pointing his shotgun upward. Deodoro was

with one of the suspects, he added.

He said another armed man emerged from the rear of the bank and all three, including Deodoro, escaped.

The witness positively identified Deodoro in a police line-up at the Pasay police headquarters.

Police had earlier suspected that the foiled heist was an inside job because the robbers had used bank keys that had been entrusted to the security guards.

Deodoro is now in the custody of the Pasay police.

Superintendent Gutierrez said the robbers were not able to escape with any loot.

Slain over 'baog' joke

BY JEROME ANING

A BACHELOR truck helper stabbed dead a porter who reportedly called him "baog" (sterile) during a drinking spree in Tondo, Manila before dawn yesterday.

Raul Brosas, 47, married and a resident of 104 Radial Road 10, Tondo, suffered several stab wounds in different parts of the body. He was pronounced

dead upon arrival at the Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center.

Brosas was about to sleep in his house when Noel Montemayor, 27, came and stabbed him around 1 a.m.

Shortly before the stabbing, Brosas and Montemayor and two other men were drinking beer and gin in front of the house of Brosas, investigator SPO1 Edgardo Ko of the Western Police District homicide section said.

Janitor, 27, nabbed for raping pupil, 12

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

AGE does not matter, as far as a 27-year-old janitor of Pag-asa Elementary School in Baler, Quezon City is concerned. But he found out too late that this is not always true, or proper.

The janitor, Noel G. Abrazado, was arrested for raping a Grade VI girl who is 15 years his junior. Abrazado, of Bagbag, Novaliches, Quezon City, was charged with rape after he allegedly abused the 12-year-old, said desk officer PO2 Jose Ariel Petilla of the Baler police station.

Police are still trying to determine if the suspect and the victim were lovers as the suspect had alleged. But even if it would be confirmed

that they had an affair, Abrazado would still be held liable since the girl is a minor.

Petilla said the girl's father told authorities that his daughter had been missing since July 31.

The father reportedly suspected that Abrazado had something to do with his daughter's disappearance because he had seen Abrazado's love letters in the girl's bag.

The victim's friends also told the girl's father that they saw her with the suspect.

On Thursday, the father caught Abrazado while he was walking in Barangay Sauyo, also in Quezon City.

Abrazado was first charged with abduction because he would not

divulge where the girl was.

However, it was later discovered that the girl had gone to a relative's house in Mandaluyong after the alleged abuse happened.

She was allegedly fearful of what her father would do if he found out what had happened.

Petilla said the girl was brought to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory in Camp Crame for a medical examination.

The results showed that the girl was indeed sexually abused, Petilla said.

Friday, Abrazado was charged with rape before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

He is now detained at the Baler police station.



PHONE PALS

Supt. Danilo Aversosa of the Western Police District questions Rommel Justiniano, Cirilio Bernabe and Raymund de la Cruz who were arrested for robbing a 20-year-old student of his cell phone and watch on Soler Street in Quiapo.

JESS YUSON

Wisdom of a web site...

(From page A21)

As soon as he finished the programming course, he quit teaching and found a job as a computer operator at the Philippine National Police hospital in Camp Crame. Over the next six months, he patiently typed up bills and letters of accommodations for the hospital.

Part-time programmer
In December 1994, a pharmaceutical firm owner in Cubao asked Susano to work for her as a part-time programmer. He accepted.

He was a computer operator in Camp Crame from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and a programmer for Lafayette Pharmaceuticals from 5 to 8 p.m.

At the end of six months, the pharmaceutical firm hired him as a full-time employee. Susano had the chance to fully apply what he had learned about programming. He developed a new billing system for Lafayette using Clipper, a database development tool.

But Susano was forced to resign when the firm undertook cost-cutting measures. In the end, the company simply stopped operations.

Susano started to look for another job. While he was looking, he helped students with their theses or term papers.

Turning point

In December 1995, a friend who was undergoing on-the-job training at a Nissan gallery in Ortigas told him about an opening for a programmer in the company.

Susano was one of many applicants but the company picked him as the best man for the job. That break marked a

turning point in Susano's life.

Part of his job was to assist computer users and supervise the company's sales system and inventory.

He learned new things in that job, as well as new traits. Patience is one. Another is organization.

Later, he took charge of troubleshooting and he began to modify the system of issuing official receipts.

In March 1997, he became technical support programmer for Javlon Information Systems Inc., based at the Pacific Star Bldg. in Makati City.

The job was more complex and entailed more responsibilities. He was tasked to modify computer systems and was put in charge of sales monitoring.

After six months, he was assigned to take the place of a programmer who had just resigned from Javlon's subsidiary, Javlon Datamart Inc. There, Susano became active in sales.

But after a year, he grew restless, and with boredom creeping in, he opted to freelance. He resigned from Javlon and started a computer business with his friends.

Trial and error

For the second time his luck ran out. After five months and with only one client, he and his friends closed down the business.

For a while, he had a bout with depression. But that didn't last long. Soon, he found his ego was pricked when a friend he met online, a 17-year-old high school student, developed his own web site.

Susano was spurred to widen his knowledge. He borrowed books from friends and learned how to design his

own web site by trial and error.

Finally, he succeeded and found himself in the world of corporate players.

As a web programmer, he is proud of the sites he developed, including www.geocities.com and www.sfriends.com.

In October 1998, he applied for a job as a web developer for First Internet Solution International, based in Makati.

That job came with a fat salary. He developed more web sites, including one for a recruitment agency, Philippinesrecruitment.com, and another for a medical outfit, PhilDoctors.com.

Challenges

After three months, he moved on to Global Sources. He got that job by e-mailing his application to the company. He was hired in March 1999.

At Global Sources, he developed asiansources.com, a suppliers' web site.

Soon, Susano was swamped with high-paying job offers. In April 2000, I-Quest Inc. in Makati hired him as a web programmer with a supervisory position.

He grabbed that chance, too. Now, at a relatively young age, Susano is earning a high salary, and has a lot going for him.

"You should be willing to learn and to improve yourself," he says when asked what it takes to succeed the way he did. "Welcome challenges."

"You'll live in obscurity if you don't accept challenges. Keep on trying. Take risks. If you don't know a thing, learn. Be friendly and go out. Be patient and face up to life's trials."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, August 5, 2001
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:

All is meaningless—says the Teacher—meaningless, meaningless! For here was a man who toiled in all wisdom, knowledge and skill and he must leave all to someone who has not worked for it. This is meaningless and a great misfortune. For what profit is there for a man in all his work and heart-searching under the sun? All his days bring sorrow, his work grief; he hasn't, moreover, peaceful rest at night: that too is meaningless.

2nd Reading:

So then, if you are risen with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things that are above, not on earthly things. For you have died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, reveals himself, you also will be revealed with him in Glory.

Therefore, put to death what is earthly in your life, that is immorality, impurity, inordinate passions, wicked desires and greed which is a way of worshipping idols.

Do not lie to one another. You have been stripped of the old self and its way of thinking to put on the new, which is being renewed and is to reach perfect knowledge and the likeness of its creator. There, there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, between circumcised and uncircumcised. There are no strangers, barbarians, slave and free, but Christ is all and is in all.

Gospel:

Someone in the crowd spoke to Jesus, "Master, tell my brother to share with me the family inheritance." He replied, "My friend, who has appointed me as your judge or your attorney?" Then Jesus said to the people, "Be on your guard and avoid every kind of greed, for even though you have many possessions, it is not that which gives you life."

And Jesus continued with this story, "There was a rich man and his land had produced a good harvest. He thought, 'What shall I do? For I am short of room to store my harvest.' So this is what he planned: 'I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones to store all this grain, which is my wealth. Then I may say to myself: My friend, you have a lot of good things put by for many years. Rest, eat, drink and enjoy yourself.' But God said to him: 'You fool! This very night your life will be taken from you; tell me who shall get all you have put aside?' This is the lot of the one who stores up riches instead of amassing for God."

Commentary

Jesus came to teach people the real dimensions of life and to live accordingly as children of God. The gospel reading today illustrates through a parable the foolishness of people who define life and its needs according to the dynamics of greed and thus fail to grow as children of God. The real wealth of life does not consist of an abundance of possessions but in a correct relation to God. The reading contains an important message for today when people are exposed to a one dimensional culture that is strongly dominated by the dynamics of production and consumption. It is an invitation to search for that which lasts, the real values of human life.

Father in heaven, life has so many demands that we get often confused. Teach us the wisdom to opt for that which is real and lasting.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumt St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Websites: <http://www.bible.claret.org> (Claretian Publications Inc.) & <http://missionaries.claret.org> (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Review of evidence in rape cases—In rape cases, courts are guided by the following principles: (1) to accuse a man of rape is easy, but to disprove it is difficult though the accused may be innocent; (2) considering that in the nature of things, only 2 persons are usually involved in the crime of rape, the testimony of the complainant should be scrutinized with great caution; and (3) the evidence for the prosecution must stand or fall on its own merit and not be allowed to draw strength from the weakness of the evidence for the defense. In the case at bar, the trial court has to rely on its own assessment of the credibility of both parties, particularly that of the complainant. Credible witness and credible testimony are the two essential elements for the determination of the weight of a particular testimony. This principle could not ring any truer than in this case where the prosecution relies mainly on the testimony of the complainant, corroborated by the medico-legal findings of a physician. Be that as it may, the accused may be convicted on the basis of the lone, uncorroborated testimony of the rape victim, provided that her testimony is clear, positive, convincing and otherwise consistent with human nature. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, People v. Belga, G.R. No. 129769, Jan. 19, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Indian film premieres

"YAADEIN," a film by Indian director Subhash Ghai, premieres in Manila cinemas starting today. The film stars top actors of the Indian cinema led by Jackie Shroff, Hrithik Roshan and Kareena Kapoor, with Rati Agnihotri and Amrith Puri.

"Yaadein" is all about being in love with your family, just by adding the element of friendship," says Ghai, who is also the writer and film editor.

Raj Singh Puri (Shroff) has an ambience of love and complete bliss in his middle class existence in London. He has a beautiful wife (Rati Agnihotri) and three daughters Avantika (Avni Vasa), Sania (Himani Rawat) and Isha (Kapoor).

Add to this the complete loyalty of his best friend L.K. Malhotra (Anang Desai) and his family - wife Nalini (Supriya Karnik) and son Ronit (Hrithik Roshan).

In the blissful yet emotionally complicated world of the Puris and Malhotras, there come the eternal twists of natural evolution of life.

What happens subsequently reiterates every Indian's belief in the premiere institution of our social being, the family.

Amidst all adversities, the Indian family will always emerge stronger emotionally, with inherent values embedded in their psyche.

Kapoor says of the film: "It's so strange that the title of the film is Yaadein and we really have created the best memories of our lives."

"None of us are going to forget the time that we shared while making this film. It is perhaps Mr. Ghai's best film so far."

Campus tour

MTV Philippines Channel 41 presents the Pepsi Live Campus Tour - Aug. 10 at the Bahay ng Alumni in UP Diliman; Aug. 17 at Assumption College, with the theme "Soul Jam" at the Assumption Gym; and Aug. 31 at the College Gym of St. Benedict's College in Alabang.

Featured bands are The Eraseheads, True Faith, parokya ni Edgar, Barbie's Cradle, River Maya and Passage.

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2 SOON TO OPEN	2 KISS OF THE DRAGON
3 RED DIARIES	3 CATS & DOGS
4 JURASSIC PARK 3	4 JURASSIC PARK 3
5 KISS OF THE DRAGON	5 MOULIN ROUGE
6 CATS & DOGS	6 RED DIARIES
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8 NARINIG...ANG LEBEST/MILA	

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	MOULIN ROUGE
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MAXIM	CLOSED
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ROBEN	AMORSEKO
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CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-6	NAG APOY NA LANGIT
CINEMA-7	SWORDFISH
CINEMA-8	FINAL FANTASY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CATS & DOGS
CINEMA-11 (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-12	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-14	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-15	RED DIARIES

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

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CINEMA-2	CATS & DOGS
CINEMA-3	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-4	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-5	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-6	MOULIN ROUGE

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(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE

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5 KISS OF THE DRAGON	5 CATS & DOGS
6 RED DIARIES	6 MOULIN ROUGE
7 DR. DOLITTLE 2	7 JURASSIC PARK 3
8 PANGAKO IKAW LANG	8 KISS OF THE DRAGON
	9 DR. DOLITTLE 2
	10 RED DIARIES
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2 MOULIN ROUGE	2 JURASSIC PARK 3
3 JURASSIC PARK 3	3 KISS OF THE DRAGON
4 TOM CATS	4 CATS & DOGS
5 KISS OF THE DRAGON	5 FINAL FANTASY
6 PANGAKO IKAW LANG	6 DR. DOLITTLE 2
7 CATS & DOGS	7 RED DIARIES
8 SWORDFISH	8 JURASSIC PARK 3
9 JURASSIC PARK 3	9 PANGAKO IKAW LANG
10 DR. DOLITTLE 2	10 TURN ON

CITY FAIRVIEW	GUADALUPE COMM'L
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2 SWORD FISH	2 KISS OF THE DRAGON
3 JURASSIC PARK 3	3 JURASSIC PARK 3
4 KISS OF THE DRAGON	4 CATS & DOGS
5 MOULIN ROUGE	5 JURASSIC PARK 3
6 RED DIARIES	6 KISS OF THE DRAGON
7 JURASSIC PARK 3	7 JURASSIC PARK 3
8 CATS & DOGS	8 JURASSIC PARK 3
9 PANGAKO IKAW LANG	9 MOULIN ROUGE
10 TOMB RAIDER	10 PARU PARONG LIGAW
11 TURN ON	11 THEY NEST
12 DR. DOLITTLE 2	12 TOM CATS

CITY MANILA	ILOILO
1 KISS OF THE DRAGON	1 MAHAL KITA
2 MOULIN ROUGE	2 CLOSED
3 TURN ON	3 MAHAL KITA
4 CATS & DOGS	4 MAHAL KITA
5 TOM CATS	5 MAHAL KITA
6 JURASSIC PARK 3	6 MAHAL KITA
7 SWORD FISH	7 MAHAL KITA
8 PANGAKO IKAW LANG	8 MAHAL KITA
9 RED DIARIES	9 MAHAL KITA
10 DR. DOLITTLE 2	10 MAHAL KITA
11 KISS OF THE DRAGON	11 MAHAL KITA
12 JURASSIC PARK 3	12 MAHAL KITA

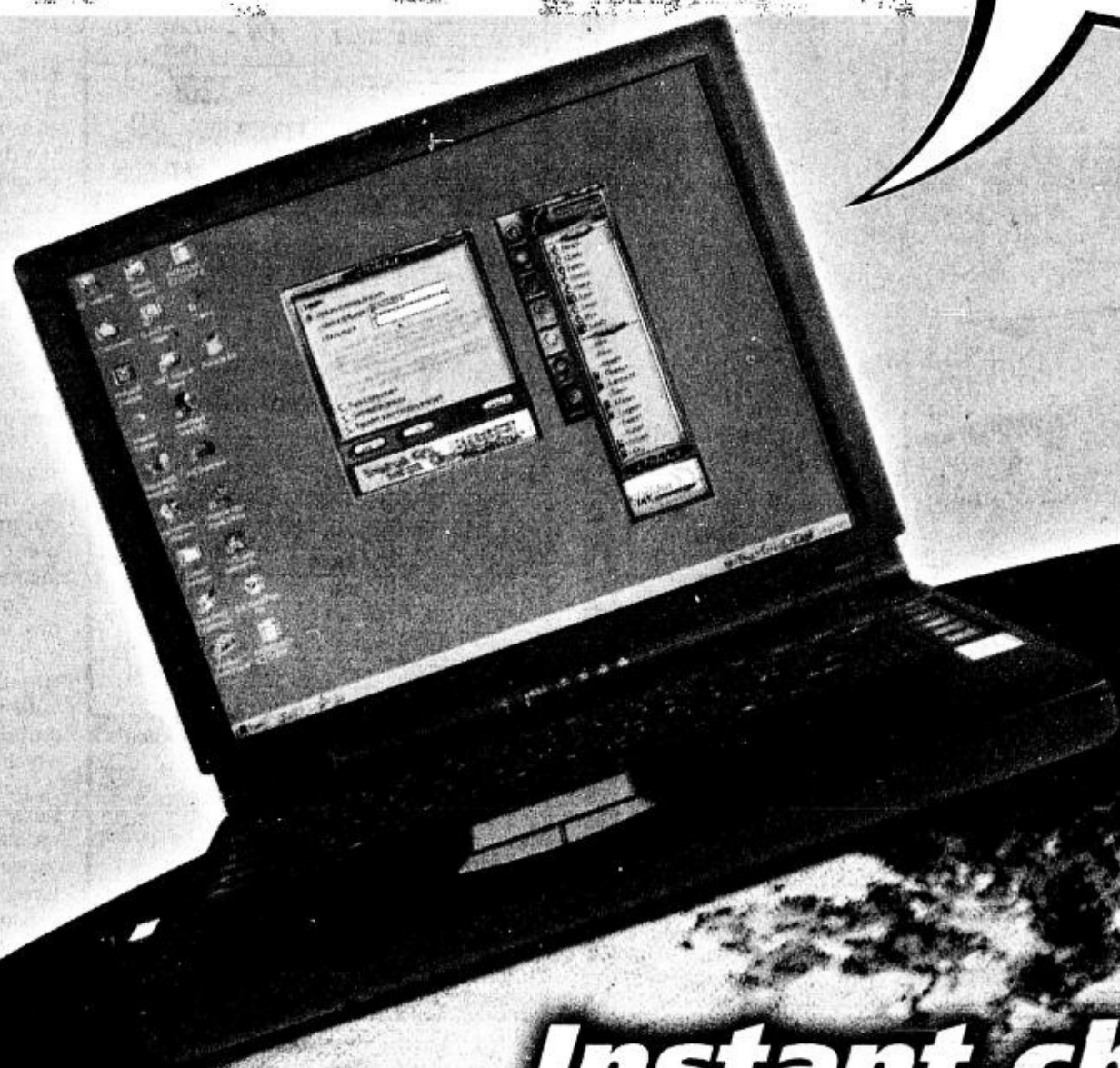
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SMART i-chat 'Anytime, anywhere' instant messaging

SMART GSM celfone subscribers can now easily send messages back and forth to PC-based instant messaging (IM) service users anytime, anywhere in the world using a new Philippine-made IM service called "Chikka".

Offered by SMART Communications, Inc., in cooperation with Chikka, the new service is a creative combination of two of today's most popular communications technologies—instant messaging which runs on the Internet and text messaging of GSM cellular phones.

"This new and innovative service enables SMART GSM celfone users here in the Philippines to connect real-time with their friends, relatives and associates here and all over the world through their Internet-linked PCs," said Anastacio Martinez, head of SMART's Personal Communications and Mobile Services Division.

The SMART i-chat service with Chikka is similar to the freeware service provided by traditional PC IMs such as America OnLine's Instant Messenger, Yahoo! Instant Messenger and ICQ. SMART i-chat allows real-time messaging not only from PC to mobile phones but also from mobile phones to PCs.

"It can also forward messages sent to the PC to the mobile phone," said Dennis Mendiola, CEO of Chikka Holdings Ltd, the content provider for Chikka.

"With this service, mobile phone users will have the brand new experience of receiving messages zipping through the Internet from any PC in the world. They then text back as they ordinarily would," he added.

To avail of this service, the subscriber can easily register through his celfone. He only sends the word CHIKKA to 277 and a menu of options (including option 1 for the registration) will be sent back to him. Then, he only has to reply to the series of instructions via text. For the PC user, he can log on to www.chikka.com and download the free Chikka application. Then, he only has to follow the succeeding instructions for the installation and registration. After registering, he can now create a list of friends, family and business associates he wishes to communicate with. Like other instant messaging services, the list of "buddies" will be asked via text or e-mail if they wish to join the user's circle of contacts. If they agree, then they can receive and send messages to the user real-time.

SMART i-chat then uses this list to find the user's friends, and notifies him once they have logged on to the Net or used their celfones. He can then send messages and "chat" in real-time.

"This is particularly useful to those people who are on the go and need constant communication with people abroad—be it in the US, Europe or the Middle East," said Martinez.

SMART i-chat service fits the current Philippine setting where Filipinos have few computers but lots of text-capable cellular phones.



was fun! u wud'v
lykd it. :)

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Will Cogie, James and Danilo be bigger than the Guwapings?

REMEMBER the screen heartthrobs of the '80s - Gabby Concepcion, William Martinez and the late Alfie Ando?

Then came the Guwapings in the '90s - Mark Anthony Fernandez, Erle Fructuoso and Jo-mari Yllana.

Of course, the perennial matinee idols - Richard Gomez and Aga Muhlach - are still very much in the game.

Now comes a new batch of potential heartthrobs - Cogie Domingo, James Blanco and Danilo Barrios. Collectively, the three will be known as the "Cool Dudes." They will be launched to stardom by Regal Entertainment in the movie of the same title.

"Cool Dudes" showcases not just the good looks but also the acting talents of Cogie, James and Danilo. Of the three, James is the only first-time movie actor.

Cogie has appeared in three films. He played Maricel Soriano's younger brother in "Sa Piling ng Aswang," the son of Lorna Tolentino and Christopher de Leon in "Yakapin Mo Ako" and a juvenile inmate in "Deathrow," where he pitted acting talents with the veteran Eddie Garcia.

Danilo made his big screen debut in last December's Metro Manila Film Festival blockbuster, "Spirit Warriors."

The three guys, however, did not upstage each other in "Cool Dudes," which also marks the directorial debut of TV megman Ruel Bayani.

"Each of us was given a different story and we all have our highlights in the movie," Danilo, 19, says. "James figures in a light-romance story. Cogie does light drama, while I do action-comedy."

Cogie is a contract star of Regal, where he signed a 16-picture, four-year deal.

The lanky Cogie is only turning 16 on Aug. 15. His towering height and good looks, coupled with his talent, easily make him a star.

Cogie was ALSO signed up as the image model of Penshoppe, the trendy garment line he is now endorsing.

Cogie has the full support of Penshoppe in his new movie. The garment company provided all his outfits in the movie and even poured in money to help promote "Cool Dudes."

Penshoppe presents Cogie in a series of mall tours in Manila and the provinces for the film's publicity blitz.

Since he joined show biz more than two years ago, Cogie has never been busier as he is now. After "Cool Dudes," he is set to do a movie with Judy Ann Santos, "Asa Ka Pa."

James was spotted by Regal Films matriarch Lily Monteverde in the Lifebuoy commercial. As soon as he was tracked down, he was offered an eight-picture, two-year contract.

"I'm very lucky," he asserts. "I couldn't believe it when I was

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Leah Salterio



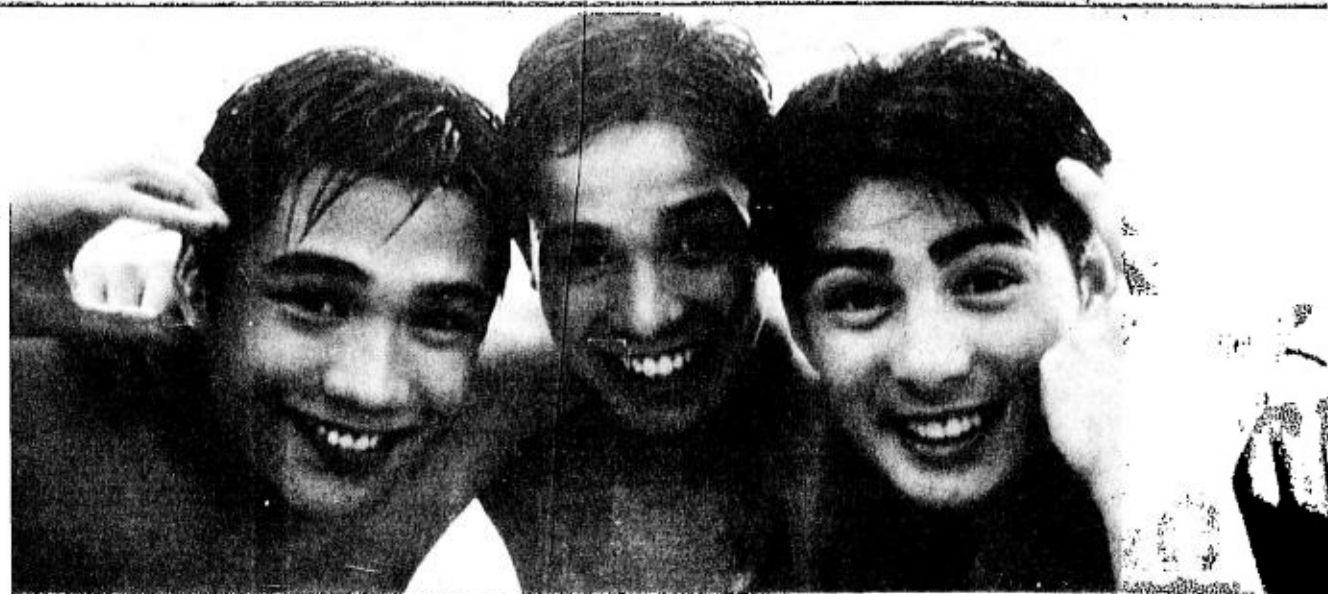
cast in this project. Up to now, I feel like I'm just dreaming."

Twenty-year-old James wanted to become a basketball hero, having been a big fan of Pop Cola cager Johnny Abarrientos. However, a knee injury while playing basketball prevented him from pursuing his dream.

But it is not really surprising that James joined show biz. Acting, after all, is in his genes. He is the grandson of veteran character actress Naty Santiago. Actor Nestor de Villa is his

mom's uncle. The second of five children, James was named after his dad who used to work as a supervisor at ABS-CBN. His mom Lalla is a housewife. Last year, James

WILL/A27



"COOL Dudes" James Blanco, Cogie Domingo and Danilo Barrios.



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Dex (Donal Logue) is a lovable kindergarten teacher who has extraordinary success with women, and a sexual appetite to match. Women go crazy for him, and men admit his finely-tuned romantic philosophy. The only woman who is not wooed by his charms is Syd (Greer Goodwin), an old college friend. THE TAO OF STEVE is a light and spunky romantic comedy directed by Jennifer Goodman. The film, and Logue's role in it, got the Outstanding Performance Special Jury Prize at Sundance 2000.

"ONE OF THE MOST PLEASURABLE FILMS AT SUNDANCE & ONE OF THE MOST DISARMING ROMANTIC COMEDIES I'VE SEEN IN YEARS."
-Glenn Kenny, PREMIERE

"HILARIOUS & HEARTFELT! DONAL LOGUE'S KNOCKOUT PERFORMANCE SHOULD MAKE HIM A STAR!"
-Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

"A WONDERFULLY WITTY ROMANTIC COMEDY THAT HAS BOTH CRITICS & AUDIENCES RAVING!"
-Jonathan Foreman, NEW YORK POST

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

Schneider, 'ANIMAL': Hayop sa katatawanan

Rob Schneider, lovable Filipino star of the comedy hit DEUCE BIGALOW MALE GIGOLO is back, funnier than ever in Columbia Pictures' THE ANIMAL.

As Marvin Mango, he has the strength of a lion, the agility of a chimpanzee and the affections of... a goat?

Thanks to a life-saving experimental surgery that fuses his body with animal parts, Marvin's dreams of becoming a cop like his dad come true. Armed with new bulging muscles and a keen sense of smell, he even becomes a police hero; as he saves a drowning boy and sniffs out drug smugglers at the airport.

But complications arise when he starts falling for Rianna (Colleen Haskell, Survivor), an animal shelter volunteer. Will he finally be able to control his beastly ways with the woman he loves?

OPENS AUG. 8!

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The film contains language which young audiences may find disturbing. Parents and guardians are strongly cautioned against bringing children 13 years and below.

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August 2001

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OPENS AUGUST 22!

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Fun premise

THE current film, "Cats and Dogs," has a fun premise: for eons now, canines and felines have been waging a top-secret war for world domination, and now that hush-hush conflict is going public and coming to a head. The probable victims are us humans, who will end up as cats' servants, instead of being their masters.

This plot premise effectively separates the members of the audience into two factions, cat lovers and people who go ga-ga over dogs. As this movie characterizes them, cat lovers are as arch and scheming as their pets, while dogs' masters

get all gooey and goofy at the mere sight of a frisky puppy.

This is all for fun, of course, so the rivalry between the owners of cats and dogs is more tongue-in-cheek than anything else. In the movie, however, the canines and felines are much more serious about their war.

The dogs are bent on winning, in order to save their beloved master from terrible ignominy and servitude. On the other hand, the cats are even more determined to emerge triumphant because they are fed up with having to act cute and purr-y

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

for their despised human masters.

That's why they have organized themselves under the leadership of Mr. Tinkles, a megalomaniacal white cat who is as coldbloodedly cruel as he is brilliant.

As for the dogs, they don't have a similarly charismatic leader, and end up putting the outcome of their efforts in the inexperienced paws of a little puppy.

Things look very dodgy for a time, but the puppy's pure heart eventually sees the world's dog lovers through.

The puppy is assigned to guard the home of a scientist (Jeff Goldblum) who is trying to come up with an antidote for dog allergy, and the cat army is determined to foil his efforts, so

family's puppy "bodyguard" has to fend off all sorts of "ninja" felines and other cat-crafty secret agents bent on making the scientist fail.

So far, so cute. After a while, however, the movie begins to feel too big, ornate and gimmicky for its little premise. In an attempt to appeal to today's trendy and technologically-aware kids, the production ends up too overblown to be really endearing.

The people behind this movie should have known when to stop,

instead of piling more gimmicks, one on top of the other. Less is really more, especially when it comes to family films.

Still, we appreciate this production's ability to make its animal characters execute complicated bits of business, through an adroit combination of live action, puppetry and animation. Would that it had paid as much attention to arriving at the right style and light touch needed by animal-oriented movies like this.

'KISS OF THE DRAGON'

Jet Li makes all the difference

BY RUBEN M. CRUZ JR.

ITS dialogue is laughable and its plot is all over the place, but Jet Li stars in "Kiss of the Dragon" and that makes all the difference.

Li, whose lightning quick fighting style makes otherwise forgettable action flicks a pleasure to watch, previously propped up Mel Gibson and Danny Glover's "Lethal Weapon IV," and starred in the hip-hop flavored "Romeo Must Die" but Western audiences haven't seen half of what this guy can do.

Filipinos as well as other Asians on the other hand are all too familiar with the martial arts wonder. Ever since I saw Li in "Once Upon a Time in China," I've made it a point to see all the films he's been in. His films are not that good — in fact, I find most of them bordering on the B-movie genre — but heck, Li is indeed a sight to behold when he's fighting.

"Dragon" brings Li back to the familiar milieu of his previous Hong Kong films, which were ideal vehicles for unleashing his fists and feet of fury. It's custom made for his natural gifts, and it's no wonder since Li thought of the story himself and also served as one of the film's producers. Luc Besson, who directed ultra-violent French films like "The Professional" and "La Femme Nikita," wrote the screenplay

together with Mark Kamen, Besson's co-writer in "The Fifth Element."

Supercop

Li plays Liu Jian, a supercop from Beijing (I told you it's familiar) who is flown to Paris to

help local police bust a French-Chinese drug syndicate.

Liu has to work with Jean-Pierre Richard (Tchéky Karyo, the Frenchman in "The Patriot"), a high-ranking inspector who's in charge of the sting operation intended to nab the syndicate's big honcho.

But Richard is a dirty cop, and what was first thought to be a quick and trouble-free mission for Jian turns into a struggle for his survival.

The film doesn't quite explain why Richard is the villain; only that he's the nastiest one around. Who exactly he's working for and why double-crossing Li would benefit his evil purpose remains a bit of a mystery — just one of the many "whys" and "hows" of the film.

No cables

"Dragon" offers a string of great action sequences, which have none of the fancy gimmickry that has become quite popular with action films nowadays. As advertised, Li has no high-flying cable stunts ala Matrix and Crouching Tiger, and the explosions and other visual effects are not computer-generated (at least they don't appear to be).

Li is shown in his

best element, disposing of Richard's army of thugs in every way possible using his unique brand of martial arts and a handful of improvised weapons on the side. His favorite is a wristlet of acupuncture needles that have various applications — one of which conveniently justifies the film's title.

Li manages to look cool even when executing scenes that call for an extended suspension of disbelief. When he cleans up a phalanx of hostile martial arts practitioners — one against 20 at least — it doesn't look implausible because of his blinding speed, his skills and his incredible agility. It's hard to imagine that he's 38 years old.

He hits it off well with Bridget Fonda's Jessica, a prostitute/junkie trying desperately to escape the clutches of the evil Richard and regain her life. They have a cute attraction between them that the film nicely underplays, especially in the last



JET SET. "Kiss of the Dragon" is Li's best "mainstream" movie so far.

scene when Jian fulfills his promise to Jessica, and there's none of that customary "my hero, kiss-kiss" stuff.

Fluid action

Karyo makes for a worthy adversary, portraying Richard with a manic and loony-like fury that makes us root for Jian all the more. His army of thugs is just as cartoonish as he is. They look like those fighters you play with in Sega, having even the same facial expressions of their virtual counterparts.

They're bad actors but at least they are able to carry out the fight scenes, brilliantly choreographed by action director Corey Yuen ("X-Men").

First-time director Chris Nahon keeps the action fluid with a very Besson-like pace that makes you wonder if he got any help from the writer or if he was Besson's protégé. The look and feel of the film is very much like "The Professionals" blended with the flavor of Chinese Kung Fu movies.

The film's editing, though, is a little sketchy although I'm not sure if that's the result of some fiddling done by the distributors or the theater just happens to have a bad projector.

"Dragon" is Li's best "mainstream" movie yet, not bad at all for just his third outing. Watching him in action is certainly more exciting than the spectacle of those dinosaurs feeding on stupid people, but hey, maybe it's just me.

REVIEW

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ASIAN DRAGON UNLEASHED ONCE MORE

JET LI, top Asian box-office superstar, teams-up with producer Luc Besson (director of "The Fifth Element") and action choreographer Cory Yuen in an exciting slick, action thriller loaded with ferocious two-fisted, fleet-footed fight scenes that rank with the classic street fighting of Bruce Lee's "Enter the Dragon" and Jet Li's own "Fist of Legend."

In an original story by Jet Li himself, he plays Liu Jian, a Chinese police officer trapped in a deadly conspiracy while on an assignment in Paris, who comes to the aid of Jessica (Bridget Fonda), an American forced into prostitution by a villainous cop.

Kiss fear goodbye. Witness the skill, the speed and the power of Jet Li in KISS OF THE DRAGON.

NOW SHOWING IN MANILA

Will Cogie...

(From page A26)

was introduced to talent manager Wyngard Tracy, who is also the head of the GMA Artist Center.

"At that time, they were looking for new talents," James shares.

He is now a mainstay on two GMA programs — the soap series "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin" and the Sunday variety noontime show "SOP."

Before his movie debut, he took acting workshops under Leo Martinez.

Despite his new celebrity status, James admits he still has to overcome his shyness.

Danilo was armed with terpsichorean skills and good looks when he joined the Streetboys, after winning the "Mr. Pogi" title in "Eat Bulaga" two years ago. A Rexona TV ad also eased his entry into show biz.

Today, Danilo is regularly seen on two ABS-CBN shows — "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan" and "G-mik."

"I want to try everything, drama, comedy, action," Danilo says. "I want to be versatile."

After "Cool Dudes," Danilo will play one of the four sons of Vilma Santos and Christopher de Leon in the period film "Dekada" for Star Cinema. It is directed by his manager, Chito Roño.

However, there's a trade-off for the new-found fame Cogie, James and Danilo are now enjoying. Their studies have had to take a backseat to show biz.

Cogie is supposed to be in junior high school at Brent. James gave up his marketing course at the Philippine School for Business Administration (PSBA). Danilo finished high school in his hometown Tarlac, before his foray into show biz.

Cogie is now on a home study program. "I don't want to miss a year in school so even if I have lots of commitments, I still make it a point to study."

James maintains, "Opportunity only knocks once. I've been given this break and I don't want to let it pass."

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Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No. 8981400/41		
CATS & DOGS - GP 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00	CATS & DOGS - GP 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	JURASSIC PARK 3 - P13 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10
KISS OF THE DRAGON - R 18 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	JURASSIC PARK 3 - P 13 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20	MOULIN ROUGE - R 18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Matinee: P80, Mon-Fri, 11:10 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.		

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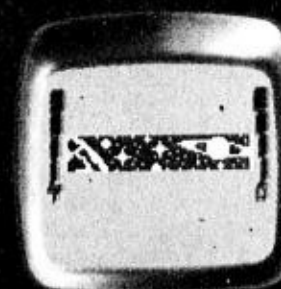
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Tone: Rock Around The Clock



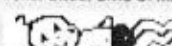
BUNDLE ROCK

Tone: Under The Sea



BUNDLE AQUA

Tone: Sweet Child Of Mine



BUNDLE BABY

Tone: Jump



BUNDLE JUMP

Tone: Kokomo



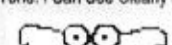
BUNDLE FRIENDS1

Tone: Pretty Fly



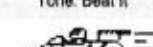
BUNDLE BFLY

Tone: I Can See Clearly Now



BUNDLE SEE

Tone: Beat It



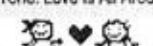
BUNDLE GO

Tone: Theme From "Godfather"



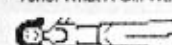
BUNDLE GANGSTER

Tone: Love Is All Around



BUNDLE PUPPYLUV

Tone: What A Girl Wants



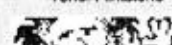
BUNDLE GIRL

Tone: Theme From "Hawaii 5-O"



BUNDLE ACTION

Tone: Flintstone



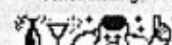
BUNDLE KID

Tone: Wake Me Up Before You Go Go



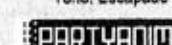
BUNDLE ZZZZ

Tone: Closing Time



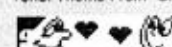
BUNDLE HIC

Tone: Escapade



BUNDLE PARTY

Tone: Theme From "Grease"



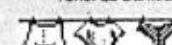
BUNDLE LOVE1

Tone: Kiss From A Rose



BUNDLE KISS

Tone: La Bamba



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Sunday BIZ

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

He spent \$9,000 for a degree and landed a \$600-a-month job

BY MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO

WHILE most people his age would have used unexpected wealth to buy a flashy car or finance a swinging bachelor's life, Deogracias Vistan decided to "gamble" and invest in a graduate degree.

Vistan, 57, and the newly installed president of Equitable-PCIBank, inherited a piece of property

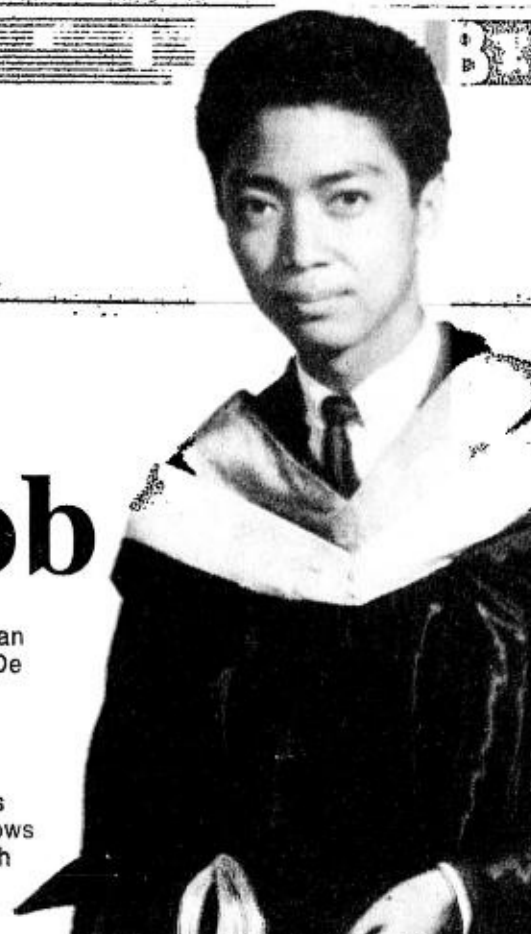
from his maternal grandmother in the mid-60s, which he sold for P45,000. He converted the amount into dollars giving him \$11,000 (exchange rate then was P4-\$1), and brought the entire amount to the US to pay for his MBA degree at the Wharton Graduate School of Business in Philadelphia.

FIRST JOB

Vistan recalls that when his parents bade him farewell in Hong Kong (he said they could not afford to bring the entire family to the US), the older Vistan hugged his son and said, HE/B3



DEOGRACIAS Vistan finished Liacom at De La Salle majoring in business administration and social science. He weighed 120 pounds then. Left photo shows him with wife Lilibeth and only grandchild Sabine.



NAÑAGAS

Nañagas housekeeper inspired new SSS fund

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

CALL it the legacy of outgoing Social Security System president Vitaliano Nañagas II, who was booted out of the Social Security System and moved over to the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Just a week before disgruntled SSS employees clamored for Nañagas' removal from office, he launched Flexi-fund. He claimed that it was his brainchild and that it was inspired by the sad experience of his housekeeper Maria.

Maria was a longtime domestic helper who worked for the Nañagas family in the United States and for another Filipino family in Hong Kong. With her salary denominated in foreign currencies, she should have saved some P1 million in retirement fund by the time she hits 60.

But this will not come to pass. At 51, Maria still works as a domestic helper with no savings to her name. Her money went to naught as her savings were badly managed, and the rest squandered by some family members and fair weather friends.

She was asked to pay for a piece of property, buy a cow and pay for the hospital bills of her sister. She ended up with virtually nothing by the time she returned from stints overseas, recounts Nañagas.

In the end, she still has to continue working as a housekeeper even if she earns less than the minimum wage.

Her experience inspired Nañagas to prod the SSS to launch a provident fund initially for overseas contract workers.

Named Flexi-fund, Nañagas says that a small P2,000 monthly contribution would amount to a whopping P1.645 million after 25 years. Had there been a Flexi-fund when Maria worked in the US for the Nañagas family, she would have more than a million pesos in nine years.

"If, for instance, she had put only a part of her savings, say \$20 monthly to the Flexi-fund and she had kept on putting savings in the provident fund, she would have close or even more than P1 million by the time she was 60," said Nañagas.

If Maria started putting in money under the Flexi-fund when she was 39, Maria's \$20 monthly contribution would have grown to P100,000 by the time she was 45, twice that amount in another six years, about P400,000 by the time she was 57, and more than P800,000 once she reaches 60.

Nañagas says his computation was based on the conservative rule-of-thumb that money doubles in six years. He, however, promises that earnings under the Flexi-fund would be more than that.

The Flexi-fund is invested mostly in government's treasury bills and the investment earns an interest at par with the 91-day treasury bill rate.

The SSS chief, embattled as he was at that time, points out that the potential earnings of OCWs from the Flexi-fund will be on top of regular benefits like retirement, disability and death.

He points out that Flexi-fund members are also entitled to these benefits with the new fund.

For the meantime, Nañagas says the fund is only open to Filipino overseas workers, those permanently residing abroad or those that get their earnings from a business or employment overseas.

"This is a pension fund and savings account rolled into one. The contribution is flexible and if a member needs the money urgently, it can be withdrawn anytime," he explains.

Even with Nañagas gone, the SSS had vowed to pursue the new project for the interest of the overseas Filipino workers who happen to be among the country's biggest dollar earners.

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IN YOUR FACE BY L. P. LEVISTE



OUSTED Social Security System chief Vitaliano Nañagas II must be having mixed feelings these days. He must be disheartened by President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to remove him from his post because of the employees' protests. But with the transfer to the Development Bank of the Philippines, he may be saying, good riddance!



TWO 'FIRSTS' HELP MAKE 'THE REAL THING'

Former presidents of Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. had a reunion of sorts during the company's 20th anniversary celebration recently. Photo shows CCBPI's first president Neville Isdell (left) together with Jesus Celdran (right), CCBPI's first Filipino president,

Yield not your mind to 'group think' and be free to make rational choices

"Getting What You Want"
Robert J. Ringer
G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2000

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

IN THE late '70s, corporation watchers and sociopolitical scientists were saying that a person would soon lose his individuality—because he would become an "organization man."

He would be faceless, his character subsumed under the corporate jungle, his choices limited by the goals assigned to him by the organization—and his life controlled by the "Firm" from cradle to grave.

Instead of accepting the inevitability of the individual melting into anonymity in the ocean of collective structure or corporate thought, more perceptive thinkers reassessed man's primordial right to be distinct individually, as they cited the dangers of developing "herd mentality."

Philosopher Eric Hoffer, in his book "True Believer," gave a ringing rebuke to the fashion at the time to elevate to the pedestal the man who was willing to submit himself to the collective, when Marxism was fashionable and capitalism a bad word.

Another philosopher, Erich Fromm, lamented the all-too-easy abandonment of rational and individual thinking in his book, "Escape from Freedom." He said people were willing to surrender their minds to their leaders, because "freedom carries with it the terrifying responsibility" to think for one's self and to face the consequences of one's own decision.

History has shown that when the majority of people allowed their rulers to direct their own destiny in mindless submission, disastrous results followed—

bringing about the Holocaust of Hitler, the Monstrosity of Idi Amin, the Killing Fields of Pol Pot, to name a few.

It is really far easier to ask someone else to think for you. If something goes wrong or a business deal sours, you have someone to blame.

This is exactly what "Getting What You Want" is advising against. Author Robert J. Ringer has crafted "The 7 Principles of Rational Living" for you, people, so that you would be "getting what you want in life, whether it be friendship, love, money, respect, or just about anything else that you believe will make you happy."

Ringer—the author of "Winning Through Intimidation" and

"Looking Out for #1" decades ago—has written what could be the last legacy of his well-argued points on his one formula: rational living.

Obviously acquiring a philosopher's depth and broad-mindedness with advancing years, Ringer says that "you have a moral right to do what is in your best interest, provided you do not commit aggression against others."

The seven principles he proposes somehow summarize everything needed for individual and community life.

For example, Principle #1 recommends: "Base your actions on truth." Before dealing with "scientific truth" and "secular truth," Ringer (whose religion is not revealed in the book) endears himself to "creationists" when he takes the bull by the horns and throws himself in the middle of the debate between the hotly contending theorists on "creation" versus "evolution." In an illuminating paragraph, he argues: "As I rhetorically asked my atheist friend, given that you are infinitely more complex than one line of a book, what are the odds that you accidentally, with all your billions of precise, specialized cells,

By the bestselling author of
LOOKING OUT FOR #1 and
WINNING THROUGH INTIMIDATION

**GETTING
WHAT
YOU
WANT**
The 7 Principles
of Rational Living
Robert J. Ringer

3: "Make choices with civility, dignity, honesty, and humility." Move over Confucius; ring the bell for Ringer! "Dignity is a rare commodity in our bizarre, modern-day world," he points out.

He cites the example of "talk shows that feature tragic people who emotionally and psychologically disrobe themselves in public while sharing their most intimate thoughts with millions of strangers."

One is reminded of truly pathetic scenes on television of sex sires making public their private desires and otherwise decent actors disclosing their all-too-intimate thoughts of loneliness and quests after pleasure following a failed marriage.

Ridding yourself of major encumbrances and acting rationally, not on impulse, are two other principles that are elaborated on by Ringer. "People feel imprisoned by many responsibilities," the author says, who adds: "There is no such thing as a happy slave. If you're not free to pursue your dreams and achieve your goals, you are, metaphorically speaking, a slave."

"Act now, regret later" is an advice heartily embraced by a people known for the "bahala na" attitude. The book advises otherwise with a witty blurb: "Curiosity may have killed the cat, but so did impulsive actions."

One theme runs through the entire book: Don't be easily swayed by what's fashionable or socially acceptable. Check the truth that underlies it, your values about what's good and what's best for you. Then freely make a choice.

"An unexamined life is not worth living," a philosopher declared centuries ago. This book gives seven principles by which you conduct such a life- or career-changing examination. (dantemv@lnext.net)

evolved from rocks and dirt over a period of a few billion years?"

If you think that short a paragraph gives you an idea about the compelling logic and lucid thinking of the author, you have just begun with the book because, as you read on, you pick up more gems of thought and well-argued points along the way.

Liberating is Principle #4: "Avoid those who drain your personal resources." If you just cannot say no to a friend who clings to you in utter dependence for every need, this section tells you how to avoid "people taxes," and "friends" who keep "taxing" you.

Refreshing and edifying is Principle #

Court case opens new chapter in e-book rights

LOS ANGELES—When is a book not a book? That's the question electrifying the publishing world as a David vs Goliath lawsuit over the ownership of electronic book rights makes its way through the US courts.

On one side is tiny upstart e-books publisher Rosetta Books, backed by the 8,000-member Author's Guild and the US literary agents Association of Author Representatives.

On the other is the world's biggest English-language publisher Random House, part of German media group Bertelsmann, supported by four other major publishing houses.

At stake is the fledgling market in electronic books—particularly in the traditionally lucrative backlist sector—whose future is currently as unpredictable as guessing when man will land on Mars.

"It is hard to believe that there won't be a significant electronic book

industry in the future. But the question no one can answer is whether it is inevitable in this decade or the next, and what the technological leap will have to be before people are really willing to do it," Paul Aiken, executive director of the Author's Guild, told Reuters.

The dispute was touched off in February when Rosetta Books launched its website offering, among 100 titles, digital versions of eight classics by Kurt Vonnegut Jr., William Styron and Rob-

ert B. Parker. Rosetta got the electronic rights direct from the authors.

A day later, Random House, which had published the eight novels back in the days when the Internet was in the "science fiction" category, sued Rosetta for contract interference and copyright infringement and sought a preliminary court injunction.

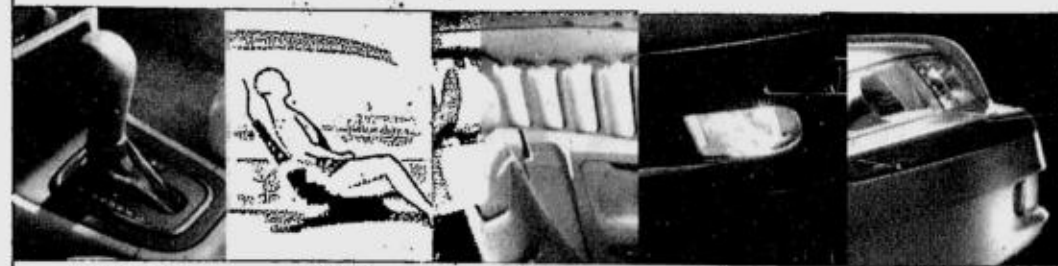
Reuters

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Dallas gets luxury mall despite economic slump

DALLAS—"Build it and they will shop" may be the best unofficial motto for a new luxury indoor mall, with stores like Neiman Marcus and Armani, opening in the Dallas suburbs on Friday despite the economy's downward spin.

Dubbed "The Shops at Willow Bend" the 175-store, indoor development by Taubman Centers Inc. has raised eyebrows by opening at a time of layoffs in the Dallas-area high-tech sector.

But Taubman, and many industry analysts, say the 139,400-square-meter mall with imported limestone floors and bronze and cherrywood decor is in the right spot to profit from the continuing growth of Dallas' affluent northern suburbs.

"It's impossible to time a mall opening in advance to the cycles of the economy," said Louis Taylor, who follows Taubman as senior real estate analyst at Deutsche Banc Alex Brown.

"Compared to past economic slowdowns, this downturn is fairly benign. It may be that the center is a little ahead of residential development, but in three to five years it's going to be a very positive story," Taylor told Reuters.

Retailers have the most to fear if consumers curtail spending amid job uncertainty.

Consumer spending rose more slowly in April through June than it did in the first quarter, according to US government figures last week, and the latest University of Michigan report said consumer confidence dipped in June after two months of gains.

For a major mall, Willow Bend is average-sized and from the outside looks much like other shopping centers, perched near a freeway junction in Plano, a few miles north of Dallas.

But inside, the huge central atrium typical of many malls has been replaced by a smaller, sofa-and-chair strewn lounge decorated in 1920s Arts and Crafts style that the developers say "recreates the gracious elegance of a fine hotel lobby."

The mall has valet parking, a food court called The Cafe at Willow Bend, and concierge centers offering baby strollers and dispensing directions along with local theater listings.

"It's all about the details," said Willow Bend general manager Craig Perry. "We want to create an upscale experience that is more intimate than in other malls."

Anchor stores include Neiman Marcus, the Dallas-based department store known for its flamboyant Christmas catalog and high price tags.

The mall includes the nation's first Armani Collezione, a new concept store by Italian designer Giorgio Armani.

Reuters

ERRATUM

The article "Math Whiz Tutored for P15 a session" wrongly identified former Philam Life president as Rodrigo del Rosario. It should have read Rodrigo de los Reyes. We regret the error.

Have P50,000? Get into a sweets venture

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

LIKE many other people in the world, Filipinos have a sweet tooth. The proliferation of bakeries and pastry shops is proof enough, not to mention the fact that cakes and pastries figure prominently in every special occasion.

Hermey P. Pascual of Nego-Skwela Livelihood and Technology Training Center says anybody who has a passion for cakes and pastries can make a business out of it. Friends and neighbors who are celebrating a birthday, blessing, christening, wedding or even a simple get-together are ready customers.

Pascual says the entrepreneur looking at selling cakes and pastries can start with a capital of P50,000 which should be enough to purchase a five-quart heavy duty mixer, a small oven with a capacity to bake 12 cakes or pastries at a time and the basic ingredients and small equipment.

"One requirement is that the owner of the business should have a basic knowledge about baking cakes. They can

not rely solely on the baker because they would not be able to control or monitor the consumption of the ingredients. They can be duped if they relied solely on their workers," she stresses.

To start the business, Pascual says the baker or the owner should be experts at making the basic vanilla chiffon cake. Once that is mastered, they can just add or change the ingredients to make other kinds of cake. Sometimes only the icing is changed.

"The chiffon cake is the basic cake that should be mastered. It is the basic cake used for the birthday cakes and even wedding cakes," Pascual says.

Aside from the chiffon cake, other cakes popular with Filipino buyers are the chocolate cake and cheesecake. There are also the more specialized cakes such as the black forest, beehive and the brownies.

"The varieties are endless, all they need is to follow the instructions of the many cookbooks available. But to be

different from the rest, you should have passion. You should really like it to enjoy it and earn a profit," Pascual explains.

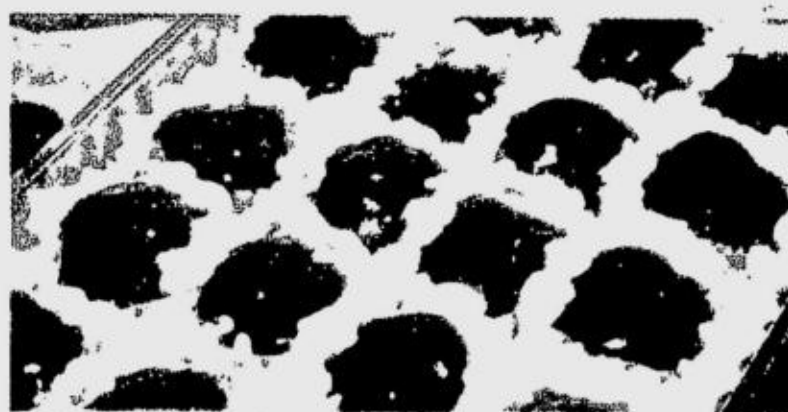
Pascual adds that there is a good profit potential in baking cakes and pastries. The biggest profit comes from making birthday and wedding cakes.

"The material cost for some wedding cakes only amount to P5,000 but these can be sold for sometimes P15,000 or P20,000 depending on the design. For the birthday cake, every decoration that you put is additional income," she says.

How To

VANILLA CHIFFON CAKE

Ingredients:
3 cups cake flour
1 tsp. baking powder
3/4 cup sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 cup oil
10 pcs. egg yolks
3/4 to 1 cup water
Vanilla flavor to taste
10 pcs. egg whites



BAKERIES are popular because Filipinos have a sweet tooth

1 cup sugar
1/4 tsp. cream of tartar
Procedure:
1. Mix together sifted flour, baking powder, sugar and salt in a bowl, then add the egg yolks, oil and water. Blend it well until the batter turns into a smooth mixture.
2. Beat together egg whites, cream

of tartar and gradually add the sugar while beating until the egg whites turn stiff and foamy.

3. Fold in the cake batter into beaten egg whites slowly, mixing it well, but not too much. Pour the mixture into a lined pan.

4. Bake at 300 degrees F for about 30-40 minutes until done.

DARK CHOCOLATE CAKE

Ingredients:
2 1/2 cups sifted cake flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 3/4 cup sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
10 pcs. egg yolks
3/4 to 1 cup water
1/2 cup oil
Vanilla flavor to taste
3/4 cup chocolate powder
baking soda
10 pcs. egg whites
1/4 tsp. cream of tartar

Procedure:

1. Mix sifted flour, chocolate powder, baking powder, baking soda and sugar into a bowl and add the egg yolks, oil and water. Blend it well until batter turns into smooth mixture

2. Beat together egg whites and cream of tartar until the egg whites turn stiff and foamy.

3. Fold in the cake batter into beaten egg whites. Mix it well and pour the mixture into a pan.

4. Bake at 300-350 degrees F for 30-40 minutes or until done.

He spent \$9,000 for a degree...

(From page B1)

"You know, if you are not going to make it, I would rather you didn't come back."

"He wanted me to bring home the bacon," Vistan says in an interview in his new office.

The banker, of course, made the grade and more. He finished his MBA in two years. He never went back to Manila during this time and did not see his family.

Armed with a \$9,000 graduate degree from one of America's finest business schools, Vistan landed a job as a sales trainee of Scott Paper even before he graduated. He had to ask his boss to allow him to take half a day off a week after starting work to attend his graduation.

He was paid \$600 a month, which was equivalent at that time to only P2,400.

Poor side of town

His work involved driving around the poorer side of Philadelphia knocking on doors of storeowners, lugging huge boxes of bathroom and facial tissue.

He says his only fear at the time was failing to sell anything. If he was unable to unload a carton by noon, he would break out in a cold sweat and would go as far as begging any storeowner to buy.

He drove around in a second hand Renault that he bought for \$800 after graduation. He used the \$2,000 or so that was left from his baon of \$11,000.

"It was the first time I felt like somebody," Vistan said as he described how it felt to have a car. "I could go wherever I wanted to go."

With his first paycheck, Vistan painted the town red with his friends that included PLDT president and another Wharton alumnus Manuel V. Pangilinan.

Vistan worked for only six months in the US, since the deal was for him to go back to the Philippines and work for the local office.

In 1967, he joined Scott Philippines' marketing department and got P800 a month.

He ended up staying at Scott for about a year.

The turning point in his life was when JJ Calero (former head of J. Walter Thompson) introduced him to Bert Bravo, founder of Ubix and who at that time worked for the First National City Bank of New York.

"He wanted to become a distributor of Scott," Vistan says.

But during their meeting, Bravo asked the young graduate if he was happy with Scott. He asked because Citibank was looking for young MBA graduates in 1968 to go through a one-year training program.

The chance encounter marked Vistan's shift from a marketing person to a banker.

He stayed with Citibank for 18 years and he started with a salary of P1,500 a month. This went up to P75,000 when he left in 1986 as senior country operations officer.

It was a great time for the economy. The exchange rate was in the mid-20s against the US dollar, brand new cars were selling for only P100,000 and Filipinos were in a euphoria, having just overthrown a dictator.

Pay cut

Vistan was also swept by the sea of change. He shifted gears after President Corason C. Aquino asked him to head the Land Bank of the Philippines.

He suffered a 50-percent pay cut, but he says it was not too bad since he was able to save enough from his Citibank days to finance the studies of his three children.

He left LBP in June 30, 1992, and he was hired the next day to head Solid Bank of the Philippines, which was still owned at the time by the Madrigals and the Bank of Nova Scotia of Canada.

After eight years, taipan George Ty's Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. bought Solidbank and Vistan was appointed Metrobank's vice chair.

Less than a year later, he got a call from Vitaliano Nafagas, the former administrator of the Social Security System who was booted from office amid protests after instituting major changes in the SSS.

Nafagas arranged a meeting between Vistan and Antonio Go, Equitable-PCIBank's new chair, who asked Vistan if he would consider the presidency of the bank after Wilfrido Vergara left.

The SSS as well as the Government Service Insurance System have some influence in Equitable-PCIBank as the mutual funds provided a big part of the war chest used by Equitable, then under George Go, to buy PCIBank, formerly owned by the Lopezes and the Gokongweis.

As to why he accepted the job, Vistan says "I felt that I wanted to get back in the driver's seat after one year in an advisory staff position."

"I looked at the financials of the bank and decided that it is a sound financial institution and was just waiting for the right kind of leadership," he adds.

His usual day at work runs from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. He already lost 10 pounds after just a couple of months on the job.

"It's a transitional kind of situation. I am still new and I am trying to do so much," he explains.

Because of the importance of re-establishing trust and confidence in the bank, Vistan has made himself available to everybody especially clients. And it does not matter how much they have in the bank.

He says his instruction to his managers has been, "If the person or party is important enough for you, I will meet them."

Vistan committed himself to four years with Equitable. By the time he retires on June 1, 2004, he plans to bring back the bank to its former No. 3 position in the competitive banking industry.

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What Drives You





WORLD Leaders Build steering committee members Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Robert Kuan and Sandy Prieto-Romualdez representing her mother Marixi.



WORLD Leaders Build sponsors. (From left) Elvira Ong Chan of MetroBank Foundation, Ramon SY, president of International Exchange Bank and Petron president Motassim AL-Ma'ashouq.



PEDRO Roxas of Roxaco Land Inc. with Fernando Zobel de Ayala and Robert Kuan

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA AND MANDY NAVASERO

Rich dirty hands to build homes for poor



ROBERT Kuan, chairman of the board of trustees of St. Luke's Medical Center and member of the World Leaders Build national steering committee

ON AUG. 6, world leaders in over 50 countries will take part in the biggest effort to raise public awareness for the need to eradicate the housing shortage involving government, business, civic and media leaders.

The World Leaders Build event organized by Habitat for Humanity International will be kicked off in South Korea by Habitat's number one volunteer, former US President Jimmy Carter together with former President Corazon Aquino and South Korean President and Nobel Peace Laureate Kim Dae-jung.

Philippine business and government leaders immediately responded to the call to participate in the World Leaders Build program. Business groups raised over P18 million to finance the construction of new homes for the poor.

These include the Ayala group of companies, Aegon Life Insurance, Jollibee Foods Corp., Philippine Electric Corp., Lafarge Cement and Petron Corp. Other sponsors are SM Prime Holdings, International Exchange Bank and Metrobank Foundation.

Other companies sponsoring the event are the Lopez Group of Companies,



REPRESENTATIVES from World Leaders Build sponsors try their hand at hammering nails.

nies, Aboitiz Group Foundation, Sun Microsystems, Manila Banking Corp., Universal Motors, Cebu Pacific, American Standard, ING Barings, Mariwasa Tiles, Amkor Anam, Splash Foundation, Zuellig Foundation, Philippine National Oil Co., Makati Business Club, the First Philippine Industrial Park and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

The government, on the other hand, provided an additional P12 million from the Presidential Social Fund through the efforts of Housing Secretary Michael Defensor.

Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Habitat trustee and chairman of the World Leaders Build National Steering Committee, says business leaders readily responded to the call for help and to participate in the worthwhile project because it raises their awareness for the plight of the needy and encourages a personal commitment to assist them.

Zobel who also helps in the Tabang Mindanaw project says he is personally committed to the project because helping people own a decent home provides them the first step in regaining dignity and overcoming the cycle of poverty.

"Habitat offers a great opportunity for us to get

involved as corporate citizens, not only through fund mobilization but as volunteers as well," Zobel adds.

Margie Moran-Florendo, on the other hand, says building homes through Habitat brings out her philanthropic spirit and sense of volunteerism.

"Personally, I feel blessed when I participate in giving shelter to those who dream of owning a home, a most basic need," she says.

"Habitat is a well-run institution that addresses a very pressing need to improve the quality of life," adds Pedro E. Roxas, chairman and CEO of Central Azucarera de Don Pedro.

Roberto E. Aboitiz, SVP of Aboitiz and Co. Inc., likewise says that helping people build homes gave him a deeper appreciation of what "a roof over your head" and a "lock on the door" meant.

These CEOs and many others are expected to take part in the weeklong event where Habitat for Humanity Philippines intends to put up over 200 houses for Filipino families in need. To date, over 4,000 houses have already been built by Habitat for Humanity.

World Leaders Build will focus on three sites—Baras, Rizal; Escalante, Negros Occidental and Cagayan de Oro.



ANTONIO Lagdameo and Vicente Florendo representing Anflo Management



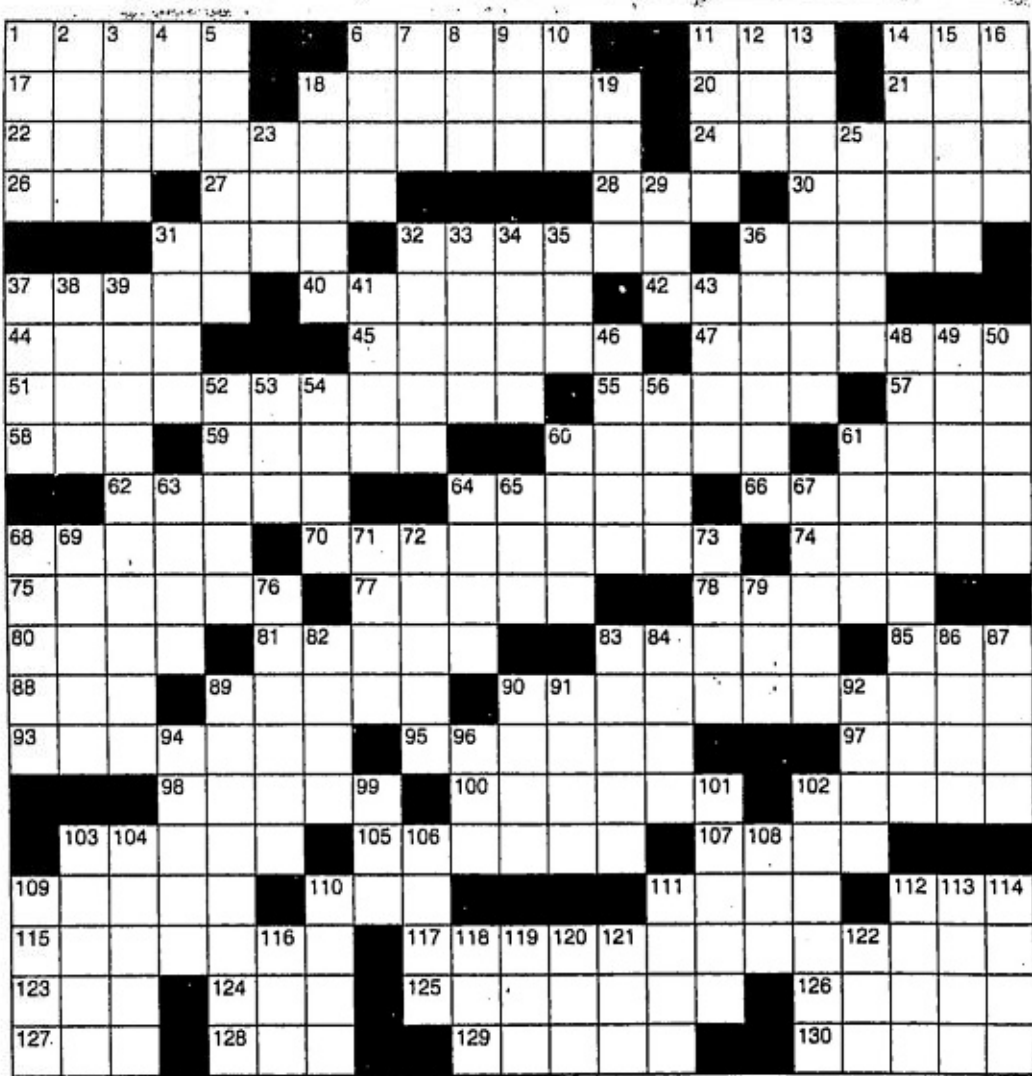
JOLLIBEE vice president Claro Certeza handing over a check representing their donation to the World Leaders Build to Habitat steering committee chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala. Looking on is Housing Secretary Michael Defensor.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

RECREATION PROCLAMATION

ACROSS

- 1 Ladd or Lane
- 6 Host a roast
- 11 Kipling novel
- 14 Social worker?
- 17 Conductor Dorati
- 18 In a perfect world
- 20 Slangy suffix
- 21 Norm
- 22 Start of a remark by
- 117 Across
- 24 Northwestern capital
- 26 "— Day Now" ('62 hit)
- 27 Stallion's son
- 28 Pom's perch
- 30 — laugh
- 31 Hound's handle
- 32 Torah, e.g.
- 36 '92 US Open champ
- 37 What you've gotta have
- 40 Acquire
- 42 Harden
- 44 — Romeo
- 45 Spring holiday
- 47 Side by side
- 51 Part 2 of remark
- 55 Lamb product
- 57 Vane dir.
- 58 — tzu
- 59 Boiling
- 60 West African port
- 61 Like — of bricks
- 62 Austerity
- 64 Austen hero
- 66 German mark?
- 68 Sierra —, CA
- 70 All wet
- 74 Terra firma
- 75 Is useful
- 77 Author Potok
- 78 Column style
- 80 Claim
- 81 Problem for Pauline
- 83 Fernando or Lorenzo
- 85 Rocker Nugent
- 88 Herriot title start
- 89 "Odyssey" enticer
- 90 End of remark
- 93 17 Across' title
- 95 "The — Kid" ('84 film)
- 97 Orthodox image
- 98 Pants measurement
- 100 Study
- 102 Stick one's neck out
- 103 Sportscaster Musberger
- 105 Classical hunk?
- 107 Shopper's delight
- 109 — in (tipped off)
- 110 Shuffleboard stick
- 111 TV's "— Living"
- 112 Hum bug?
- 115 More eminent
- 117 Speaker of remark
- 123 Hosp. area
- 124 Erwin or Gilliam



- 125 She handed Theseus a line
- 126 Break off
- 127 Endorses
- 128 Cast a spell
- 129 Trepidation
- 130 Neighbor of Oman

DOWN

- 1 Comic Carvey
- 2 Privy to
- 3 Part of DA
- 4 Uh-uh
- 5 Draw forth
- 6 Touch up the text
- 7 Big boys
- 8 Baseball's Ripken
- 9 Ransom — Olds
- 10 Brownie, for one
- 11 Former surgeon general
- 12 Unwell
- 13 Andy's area
- 14 Tell's target
- 15 They get hit on their heads
- 16 Hors d'oeuvre holder
- 18 Northern hemisphere?
- 19 Scream
- 23 Start to snooze
- 25 Free-for-all
- 29 "The Greatest"
- 31 Munich Mrs.
- 32 Iowa, e.g.

- 33 "The Man in Black"
- 34 Formal ceremony
- 35 Like-minded
- 36 Forester or Outback
- 37 Rain hard?
- 38 Lohengrin's love
- 39 Priced right
- 41 Leonine Lahr
- 43 Highflying agcy.
- 46 Show one's feelings
- 48 Penguins' place
- 49 Newfoundland's nose
- 50 Fractional amount
- 52 Actor Bruce
- 53 To and —
- 54 Galley features
- 56 — terrier
- 60 Pharmacy measure
- 61 Jai —
- 63 Spring flower
- 64 Twofold
- 65 Paul's "Exodus" role
- 67 The Brainy Bunch?
- 68 Lady of the house
- 69 Spanish city
- 71 Farm measure
- 72 Use one's noodle
- 73 Tiny coin
- 76 Elan
- 79 Lummo
- 82 Desire deified

- 83 Yoga position
- 84 Pub orders
- 86 North Carolina campus
- 87 Unit of force
- 89 Plymouth leader
- 90 Small songbird
- 91 Mata —
- 92 Swampland
- 94 Like Sauternes
- 96 Mil. address
- 99 Sweater letter
- 101 Cosmetician Lauder
- 102 "Patriot Games" author
- 103 Thwart a blitz
- 104 Sewell of "A Knight's Tale"
- 106 — vu
- 108 "Do — say, not . . ."
- 109 Commercial award
- 110 Pivotal point
- 111 Ain't right?
- 112 Put on a happy face
- 113 In addition
- 114 Genesis setting
- 116 When the French fry
- 118 Significant years
- 119 — Tin Tin
- 120 "Doll" ('64 hit)
- 121 Fabric arnts.
- 122 Charge

ANSWER ON PAGE B7



JG Summit Holdings chair John Gokongwei Jr. and wife Elizabeth, Benito Lim of Sahara and Wallstreet, Carlos Yao of Crissa, Dody Arcaya of Dickies, Elena Sevilla of EGG Sevilla Card and Suresh Mirpuri of Barbizon.

Gokongwei leaves mark in Novaliches

ROBINSONS Department Store (RDS) added another outlet to its growing chain. It recently inaugurated its newest branch in the district of Novaliches with Robinsons' top management, concessionaires, managers and employees in attendance.

The new store comes after the opening of RDS in Gen. Trias, Cavite, and is in line with the company's expansion plans for the year.

The opening remarks of RDS AVP for operations Mark Tansiongkun signaled the start of the inauguration rites. Robinsons Retail Group's John and Elizabeth Gokongwei, Carlos Yao of Crissa, Suresh Mirpuri of Barbizon, Benito Lim of Sahara and Wallstreet, Dody Arcaya of Dickies and Elena Sevilla of EGG Sevilla Card then started placing

puzzle pieces to the specially designed gadget on the stage that later opened up to welcome well-wishers to the new store.

On hand to welcome guests were Robinsons senior vice president Robina Gokongwei-Pe, RDS AVP for merchandising Hope G. Tang, FVP procurement Esperanza Yu, VP for treasury Rhodora Dakanay, VP comptroller Tess Vasay, AVP for info systems department Thelma Roxas as well as Robinsons Supermarket AVP for purchasing Faith G. Ong.

The two-level store sits on 8,730-square-meter of spacious floor area and is conveniently located inside Robinsons Place, Novaliches.

RDS is also set to open branches in Pasig, Iloilo and Pampanga.



CHRISTOPHER Tiu of Bobson, Carlos Yao of Crissa, RDS AVP-merchandising Hope G. Tang, Robinsons Supermarket AVP-purchasing Faith G. Ong and Elizabeth Gokongwei of the Robinsons retail group.



EVA Ang of Freego, Jojo Dy and Henry Picones of U2 Jeans, Nelson Chan, Frollan Dollona and Mark Tansiongkun of RDS.

Young, educated and jobless after the US technology bust

NEW YORK—Three months ago, Jennifer Bussell quit a six-figure job in Internet marketing, packed up her swanky condo on Chicago's Lake Shore Drive and moved to New York in search of an exciting new opportunity.

Her timing could not have been worse.

Unemployed, broke and living for free at a friend's house 2-1/2 hours from the city, Bussell has joined the ranks of highly educated, experienced and once-highly paid young professionals adrift without jobs in the wake of an investment bust in US technology companies.

"I'm on my third pre-midlife crisis," Bussell, 32, said at a recent meeting of her job networking group in a downtown bookstore coffee shop. "I've been watching a lot of Oprah."

Watching the feel-good talk show hosted by media superstar Oprah Winfrey is a luxury few working women can afford because it airs on weekday afternoons. But Bussell and her out-of-work peers have too much time on their hands because jobs for professionals are as scarce as cashmere sweaters in the steamy New York summer.

Recruiters in New York and Boston say they have three to four times as many qualified applicants for each professional job they have to fill, compared with two years ago, before the current economic slowdown took hold.

The technology industry has been particularly hard hit after years of booming investment in the sector suddenly dried up. The Industry Standard magazine's website, which tracks layoffs and failures at Internet-related companies, has counted about 131,000 job losses since December 1999 and 245 corporate failures.

Nationwide, the unemployment rate has climbed to 4.5 percent from a low of 3.9 percent last October.

Bussell is one of at least a million Americans looking for work and although she is educated, experienced and determined, it is not easy to find. Dressed in weather-defying cowboy hat and leather boots on a particularly hot and sticky day recently, Bussell, with her long, red Botticelli Venus hair, exuded charm and vivaciousness. But her inviting personality, her 10-year work history and her college degree have done her little good in the dozens of job interviews she has gone to so far this year.

"I've interviewed at every imaginable advertising and marketing company in New York," Bussell said. She has also sent out nearly 1,000 resumes electronically, but has not received one job offer she considered viable.

"I had a great condo on Lake Shore Drive. But I knew I was ready to make it in New York. I thought I had the experience and expertise to land a good job in Manhattan," Bussell said. "Now I'm asking myself 'Why did I do it?'"

Harvard MBA collects unemployment

Even a masters in business administration degree from prestigious Harvard University, considered a ticket to the fast track in American business, no longer guarantees a job in this tough economic environment.

"Coming out of Harvard, it was like 'the world is your oyster,'" said Jason Stone, a 31-year-old casualty of Internet downsizing who received his Harvard MBA in 1999.

"There was every opportunity imaginable," he said of the job climate in 1999. "People were looking for smart, motivated, hard-working, ambitious people willing to take on a lot of responsibility without a lot of structure and experience."

Since graduation, Stone has worked in three Internet start-ups as a project manager and, like Bussell, earned six-figure salaries. He was laid off from his last job three months ago and now collects government unemployment benefits.

Traditionally, Stone said, Harvard MBAs went into banking and consulting. In 1999, he said his classmates were starting out in consulting jobs that paid \$110,000-\$130,000 a year with a \$20,000 signing bonus.

The frenzied boom in new Internet and high-tech companies was at its height and a new trend was afoot—MBAs from Harvard and other prestigious universities were flocking in increasing numbers to new upstart "dotcom" companies instead of the traditional professions.

"There was a lot more flexibility in terms of 'Did you have the right skill set?'" Stone said. "A lot of us were entering uncharted territory. But this came back to bite us, the lack of relative experience."

Stone and his Generation-X peers in their early 30s had worked only during the boom times of a record 10-year economic expansion and had grown used to being in demand. Unemployment fell steadily over the past decade from a high of 7.8 percent in June 1992 to a 30-year low of 3.9 percent in October 2000.

It was unprecedented to have a whole sector run by people under 35, labor market experts said.

Stone, Bussell and others like them resist any compromise on salary, job status or lifestyle, although as time drags on, they acknowledge that may change.

"I think a lot of us got spoiled," said Stone. "We got to do whatever we wanted to do, and some of us got a lot of money. Young people were starting their own businesses. Now the thought of going into an entry-level position is sort of a tough pill to swallow."

A bitter taste of job insecurity

Academics and economists who study labor markets agree that compared with a decade ago, professionals today face greater job insecurity even though their overall unemployment levels remain much lower than less-educated workers.

In 1992, just after the last recession, the unemployment rate for Americans who did not complete high school was 11.3 percent, compared with 3.3 percent for college graduates. By June 2001, those rates had fallen to 6.8 and 2.2 percent respectively, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

"The '90s has been all about the white-collar work force having to experience the same kind of job insecurity and risk that used to belong to blue-collar workers," said John Challenger, chief executive of outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christman.

The 1990s was a decade of downsizing, and companies under unrelenting pressure to keep their

costs down have become much more sophisticated at measuring who is contributing most to the bottom line, Challenger said.

As a result, MBAs with little experience and high salaries are having a more difficult time finding and keeping jobs.

Busted flat

Bussell has burned through her savings and is looking for part-time work that pays a fraction of what she used to earn. But so far, she has been rejected from four low-paying jobs on the grounds that she is overqualified.

Every week, she meets a job-networking group with a dozen other 30-something out-of-work lawyers, investment bankers and MBAs. Most have 10 years or more of job experience and one group member speaks five languages.

The sessions are part brainstorming, part group therapy, and part coffee klatch. They exchange job tips and recruiter names but digress frequently

to important topics such as what nights of the week you can watch reruns of "Sex and the City"—a popular cable television show about single New York women.

Many are living on government unemployment checks which, at \$405 a week, do not go far in a city where a studio apartment can easily be rented for \$2,000 a month or more.

"It doesn't pay the rent but it pays the cleaning lady and the therapist," said one woman who did not want to be named.

Bussell is considering creative solutions to her financial straits: "My car broke down so I want to start dating a mechanic," she joked.

Finally, one of the groups brings a job opportunity to the table—a friend is leaving her work as an office assistant at a penile implant clinic. It pays \$10 an hour but there is a catch—they want the new employee to assist in surgery. A collective groan emerges.

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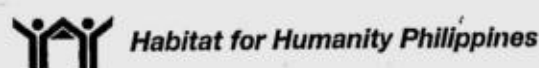
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That makes for thousands of helping hands from all over joining and working together to build homes that will build hope and new lives. Truly it is a huge and noble task that deserves all our support. To find out how you can participate in World Leaders Build Week, call 638-8007 for more information.



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It's amazing how much fun you can have with your kids when you're not worried about something.

I still remember when we used to rent a small place in a crowded neighborhood in the city. My husband and I felt regretful each time we settled the rent, it was like paying for something that can never be ours. And on top of that, the neighborhood, bad roads and poor security bothered us.

We were pleased when we saw Citta Italia. Crown Asia has always built beautiful homes and fine communities. But we were ecstatic when we learned about the flexible payment options-- we could actually afford to *own* a home here. The rate was almost as much as our monthly rental fee!

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Via Aduarte Take the Alabang-Zapote Road towards Cavite. Watch out for SM Southmall, then turn left at Moorwalk Village to Marcos Alvarez Avenue. Follow the road to Molino (Molino Wet and Dry Market will be your landmark), and turn left. After 200 meters, turn right to Bahayang Pag-as (Shell Station will be at the corner). Follow directional signs going to Mambog Road until you see Citta Italia on your right.

Via South Superhighway: Take the Carmona exit and follow the national highway towards Puerto Azul. Upon reaching Aguinaldo Highway at the end of the stretch turn right. You will pass immaculate Concepcion Academy, Waltemart, La Salle University, Orchard, Malro, and Robinson's. Watch out for Robinson's Grocery on your right. Turn right at Robinson's to Pambog Road and watch out for the CITA Italia billboard. Turn right at JICA

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- Between 28-32 years old
- Male or Female

BRANCH MANAGER (Manila Based)

- Filipino
- Must be fluent in Korean
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- Do Sales and Marketing at the same time
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- Male

Send your resumé to:

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Contact Person:

MR. JOSHUA KIM
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- male/female
- at least 3 years of clerical experience

3. MARKETING & PROMOTIONS OFFICER

- with experience in brand management

4. WAREHOUSE MANAGER

- male
- at least 5 years experience in warehousing production and distribution

5. ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- at least 3 years sales experience
- we give basic salary plus commission

6. ACCOUNTANT

- at least 5 years experience in basic accounting
- Bring resumé with 2x2 pic. and Certificate of Employment to:

7th Floor Corinthian Plaza, Paseo de Roxas
 Leg. Vill., Makati City
 Bet. 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon only or
 e-mail: contibev@hotmail.com
 Applicants older than 35 years need not apply.

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- ☑ 21 to 35 years old, male or female
- ☑ Experience in retail is required
- ☑ College graduate with good academic record
- ☑ Average monthly salary range (including sales bonus) is from P8,000 to P25,000 depending on individual sales performance

OPERATIONS MANAGER

- ☑ 21 to 40 years old, female or male
- ☑ Experience in retail is preferable
- ☑ College graduate with good academic records
- ☑ Salary is negotiable

Apply at Unit 121, G/F Shangri-La Shopping Arcade, Ayala Avenue corner Rizal Drive, Makati City (Tel.: 813-5021) from August 6 to 7, between 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Submit biodata, picture and college transcript.

IMMEDIATE HIRING

MARKETING REPRESENTATIVES - Female, 24-28 years old, single, has experience in automotive industry, preferably selling tires, batteries, accessories, & services, knows how to drive, with fixed Salary, Commission and car plan.

ALL AROUND/AUTO MECHANICS - Male for Service Center, 20 to 30 years old, knowledge in trouble shooting & Maint./wheel alignment of Japan & American cars etc. at least 3 years exp.

SERVICE ADVISOR/RECEPTIONIST - Male/Female, 3-5 years experience, preferably from 3-5 star Service Center and Degree in Automotive Technology or equivalent can work with minimum supervision.

PARTS EXPEDITER/ANALYST - Knowledge in Automotive parts identification and application, must possess valid drivers license.

Bring bio-data / Resumé, NBI Clearance / 2x2 ID picture to:
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 #68 Danny Florio Street, Bugong Ilag, Pasig City
 Tel. No. 671-3870 / 671-3855

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With experience and must have contacts with the suppliers.

EDITORIAL STAFF

With experience and must have a good command in oral and written communications.

ACCOUNTANT

Preferably graduate of BS in Accountancy. Must be a CPA. With at least 2 years work experience.

CORPORATE PRESENTORS

Must be a four-year course graduate. Masscom or other related course. With relevant work experience. Must have a good command of English language both in oral and written communications. Male or Female.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT FOR COMMUNICATION

Must be a four-year course graduate; Preferably Computer Science, Computer Engineering. With relevant work experience. An Internet savvy.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Must be a graduate of four-year course. With at least 2-3 years work experience as an Administrative Officer. Has adept knowledge with the admin work. Preferably female between 28-35 years of age.

SALES & MARKETING OFFICER (1)

Masscom or Com. Arts graduate with relevant work experience. Must have knowledge in various Marketing Strategies. Must be a good conversationalist.

ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK

Female 21-28 years old single. A graduate of four-year course with at least 2 years work experience and computer literate with typing experience.

ACCOUNTING CLERK

Preferably graduate of BS in Accountancy. With or without experience.

ENCODER

Female 21-28 years old single. Must be a graduate of four-year course. Highly computer literate with relevant work experience. With typing skills.

Apply in person with application letter, 2x2 pictures, 2 pcs. 1x1 pictures, 2 pcs. comprehensive resumé, transcript of records and other necessary credentials.

Email Address: service@rise-e-commerce.com

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A Degree holder in Marketing, Management or any related courses, with excellent communication skills (proficiency in English is a must), preferably with significant experience in fund development, has sufficient background on NGO/development work, with deep of values and high level commitment to serve people especially children in difficult situation and willing to relocate to Angeles City.

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS

A Degree holder in Elementary Education, with excellent communication skills (proficiency in English is a must), preferably PBET/LET passer, has some background on NGO/development work, with deep sense of values and high level commitment to quality education especially for those children in difficult circumstance, willing to work in Manila (PCFA satellite schools), related Training to alternative Education, innovative teaching strategies etc. is an advantage.

DEVELOPMENT WORKERS/PROJECT OFFICERS

A Degree in Community Development or any related field, outgoing and a team-player, with excellent communication skills, preferably with background on NGO/development work, dedicated and committed person, can work with minimal supervision. Forward your resumé to us ASAP! Or contact us thru these numbers: telefax (045) 893-0880 Tel. No. (045) 893-2893/321-0445. E-mail: pcfa@comelark.com



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

Need for Consulting Services for Social Assessment for Basilan and Sulu Provinces

(Inputs for the Preparation of a Project Investment Proposal for the Special Zone of Peace and Development [SZOPAD] Social Fund Phase II)

The World Bank Office in Manila (WBOM) has recently received approval of a grant from the World Bank's Japan Policy and Human Resources Development (PHRD) Fund, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this grant to payments for consulting services to support the preparation of the SZOPAD Social Fund II. One of the services is the Social Assessment (Services) for the provinces of Basilan and Sulu.

The Services include the overall management and implementation of household surveys and focus group discussions to ensure and strengthen key stakeholders' participation and inputs in the identification and prioritization of the development needs of Basilan and Sulu. The quantitative and qualitative results of the Social Assessment will serve as critical inputs in the design and preparation of the SZOPAD Social Fund II. The Services are expected to commence in October 2001 with the final outputs to be submitted by mid-December 2001.

The WBOM now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the Services (brochures, description and sample outputs of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, CVs of probable team leader and key team members, etc.). Consulting firms may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications. Strong preference will be given to firms which have Mindanao-based groups and key team members. Core expertise may include but not limited on community-based development planning and management, sociology/anthropology, post conflict, household survey, etc.

The consulting firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's "Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, January 1997 (revised September 1997 and January 1999)".

Expressions of Interest (EOI) and supporting information must be delivered to the following address no later than August 28, 2001 (1200 Hours).

The World Bank Office in Manila (WBOM)
 (Attention: Ms. Patricia Consuelo M. Morente)
 23/F, The Taipan Place Building
 Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center
 Pasig City, Philippines
 Tel. (63-2) 637-5855
 Fax: (63-2) 637-5870

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VENUE: SUITE 210, CHAMP BLDG.
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PORT AREA, MANILA

DATE: AUGUST 8, 9, 10 & 11, 2001
TIME: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

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SEA AND SKY HOTEL
PAGDARAOAN
SAN FERNANDO CITY,
LA UNION
AUGUST 13, 14 & 15, 2001
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

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1. WITH OR WITHOUT CGFNS CERT. OR U.S. REGISTERED NURSE LICENSE *
2. PHILIPPINE RN LICENSE (PRC ID)
3. PHILIPPINE BOARD CERTIFICATE
4. BSN DIPLOMA
5. TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS
6. RESUME
7. TRAINING AND SEMINAR CERTIFICATES if available
8. EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATES
9. 2 EACH 2 x 2 COLORED PICTURES
10. APPLICANT & SPOUSE BIRTH CERTIFICATE if applicable
11. MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE & CHILDREN'S BIRTH CERTIFICATES if applicable

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Send your application letter, comprehensive resumé and
one 1x1 ID photo on or before, **Friday, August 10, 2001.**
to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD

Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo St.)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

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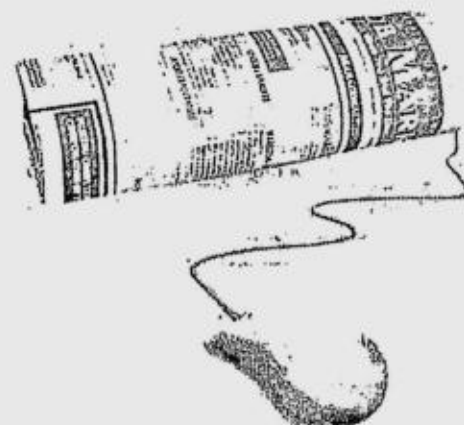
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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 711-9502/03; 743-8301 to 23 local 1107, 1125

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: August 3, 2001
Loan No.: 3852 PH

- The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the cost of Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Office Equipment and Supplies.
- The Department of Health now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of office equipment and supplies for the Department of Health.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the Procurement and Logistics Service (PLS), Building No. 26, San Lazaro Compound, Department of Health, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Facsimile No. (632) 711-6831.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased starting August 13, 2001 to September 3, 2001 by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Philippine Peso Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00).
- The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents, Procurement of Goods.
- Bids must be delivered to the Department of Health, Multimedia Conference Room, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila on or before 2:00 PM on September 4, 2001 and must be accompanied by a security in the form of bank guarantee, irrevocable letter of credit, cash, cashier's or certified check of 2.5% of the bid amount.
- Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on August 22, 2001 at the Multimedia Conference Room, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, 2:00 PM at the address indicated above.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 2:00 PM on September 4, 2001 at the Multimedia Conference Room, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.
- The Department of Health hereby receives the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to DOH and to the local health units.

(Sgd.) ZENAIDA O. LUDOVIC, M.D., MPH, CESO II
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - Aug. 5, 2001)



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 711-9502/03; 743-8301 to 23 local 1107, 1125

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- The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents, Procurement of Goods.
- Bids must be delivered to the Department of Health, Multimedia Conference Room, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila on or before 9:00 AM on September 4, 2001 and must be accompanied by a security in the form of bank guarantee, irrevocable letter of credit, cash, cashier's or certified check of 2.5% of the bid amount.
- Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on August 22, 2001 at the Multimedia Conference Room, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, 9:00 AM at the address indicated above.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 9:00 AM on September 4, 2001 at the Multimedia Conference Room, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.
- The Department of Health hereby receives the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to DOH and to the local health units.

(Sgd.) ZENAIDA O. LUDOVIC, M.D., MPH, CESO II
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - Aug. 5, 2001)



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila

CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARD COMMITTEE (COBAC)

July 25, 2001

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

The Department of Health thru the Central Office Bids and Award Committee (COBAC) is inviting bids from accredited contractors of Philippine Contractors Accredited Board (PCAB) with minimum license category of "D and C" and registration of "Small B" for Building and Industrial Plant for the project Repair/Renovation of Building No. 4 of the Department of Health, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The dates to be followed are:

- Submission of Letter of Intent, PCAB License and Registration (Bring original copies of Contractor's License) August 6-16, 2001
- Submission of duly accomplished eligibility documents August 23, 2001
- Posting of eligible contractors August 31, 2001
- Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents September 3-4, 2001
- Pre-bid Conference September 12, 2001
- Submission of Bids (Deadline) 10:00 AM September 28, 2001
- Opening of Bids 10:00 AM September 28, 2001

All of the above activities shall be held at the Office of the COBAC Chairman, Building No. 3, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The complete set of bid documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P3,000.00).

DOH-COBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by DOH-COBAC is the most advantageous to the Government. DOH-COBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

TOTAL PROJECT ALLOCATION is P1,500,000.00. The approved Budget Cost will be announced during the pre-bid conference.

(Sgd.) ASEC. ZENAIDA O. LUDOVIC, M.D.
Chairman, COBAC

(PDI - Aug. 5, 2001)



PCGG

Presidential Commission on Good Government

INVITATION TO BID

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) invites offers to purchase by way of sealed bidding the following properties:

Location	Description	Floor Price
BAGUIO CITY		
Outlook Drive (North), Baguio City	(Hans Menzi Compound) 3,875.57 square meters, more or less, of residential land with improvements under Lot 30 of Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-35742.	P 40,000,000.00
Outlook Drive (North), Baguio City	(Jose Y. Campos Compound) 17,516.20 square meters, more or less, of residential land with improvements under Transfer Certificate of Title Nos. T-49479, 49480 and 49481.	P 148,000,000.00
Outlook Drive (North), and Baguio-Itogon Road, Baguio City	(Wigwam Compound) 1,146 square meters, more or less, of residential land with improvements under Lot 2, Tsi-1-2-60580.	P 12,000,000.00
Outlook Drive (North), Baguio City	(Banaue Inn Compound) 2,677 square meters, more or less, of residential land under Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-37014.	P 6,200,000.00

EDSA, MANDALUYONG CITY

EDSA corner Berkely Street, Mandaluyong City (in front of SM Megamall)	2,013 square meters, more or less, of commercial land under Transfer Certificate of Title No. 390162.	P 90,600,000.00
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CALOOCAN CITY

Maligaya Street, Pangarap Village, Makatipo, Tala, Caloocan City (North)	300 square meters, more or less, of residential land under Certificate of Title No. C-30047.	P 250,000.00
Matahimik Street, Pangarap Village, Makatipo, Tala, Caloocan City (North)	300 square meters, more or less, of residential land under Certificate of Title No. T-131830.	P 250,000.00
Kingswood Street, Emerald Court Subdivision, Camarin, Caloocan City (North)	480 square meters, more or less, of residential land under Transfer Certificate of Title Nos. T-103234 and T-103235.	P 1,000,000.00
CEBU CITY		
Barangay Lahug, Beverly Hills, Cebu City	1,445 square meters, more or less, of residential land, under Transfer Certificate of Title No. 61559.	P 10,500,000.00

Complete descriptions/specifications of the properties, including bidding guidelines, bid forms and instruction to bidders are available for a fee of PESOS: ONE THOUSAND ONLY (P1,000.00) at the PCGG Privatization Secretariat c/o Ms. Estrella F. Tigas or Ms. Alma M. Provido at the 3rd Floor IRC Building, #82 EDSA, Mandaluyong City from August 7 to 17, 2001 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pre-bid conference will be held on August 24, 2001 at 3:00 p.m. at the PCGG Conference Room, Ground Floor, IRC Building, #82 EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

Sealed bids should be dropped at the Bid Box on August 29, 2001 at 3:00 p.m. at the abovementioned address.

The sale of properties shall be on "As Is, Where Is" and CASH BASIS only.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or any part thereof, waives any formality or requirements contained therein and will accept the offer it considers as the most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) JORGE V. SARMIENTO
Commissioner

Chairman, PCGG Privatization Committee

(PDI - Aug. 5, 6 & 7, 2001)

INVITATION TO BID

The AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits Systems (RSBS) invites interested parties to purchase by way of sealed bids the following properties:

Item No.	Description	Location	Minimum/Floor Price
1-01	2,016 sq.m. industrial lot	Bulacan Agro-Industrial Subd. McArthur Hiway, Calumpit, Bulacan	P6.7M
2-01	1,803 sq.m. industrial lot	- do -	P6.48 M
3-01	1,871 sq.m. industrial lot	- do -	P6.725 M
4-01	1,800 sq.m. industrial lot	- do -	P6.47 M
5-01	1,958 sq.m. industrial lot	- do -	P7.04 M
6-01	27,419 sq.m. commercial/ industrial lot	Sumulong Hiway, dela Paz Antipolo City	P101 M
7-01	5,270 sq.m. industrial lot with 2,493 sq.m. floor area factory building	1st St., Manalac Industrial Estate, Taguig, Metro Manila	P53.8 M
8-01	4,610 sq.m. agricultural land w/ 2 residential bldgs.	Bo. Langkiwa, Biñan, Lag.	P2 M
9-01	2 agricultural lot with total combined land area of 10,071 sq.m.	Bagong Pook, San Jose Batangas	P500 T
10-01	8,008 sq.m. agricultural land	Anao, Tarlac	P320 T
11-01	13 hectares residential raw land	Mapalad, Sta. Rosa Nueva Ecija	P42 M
12-01	367 sq.m. residential lot	Nuestra Sra dela Paz Subd. Bgy dela Paz, Antipolo City	P850 T

Interested bidders may obtain bidding documents starting August 8, 2001 upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500 pesos from the Office of the Head, Property Management Branch, REMD, 3/F, RSBS Building, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

A Pre-Bidding Conference is scheduled on August 15, 2001 at 10:00 AM, Central Meeting Room A, RSBS, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives on August 20, 2001 at 10:00 AM at the Central Meeting Room A, RSBS, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

For further inquiries, you can call MS. LIZA HIZON at telephone numbers 9124718 or 9114071 local 249.

(PDI - Aug. 5, 6 & 7, 2001)

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OBITUARIES

On the 40th day of the demise of **DRA. REMEDIOS FORTUNO SAMSON**

"Manay Meding"
 of Bato, Camarines Sur



Peacefully joined our Lord on July 1, 2001 at Fremont, California, U.S.A. at the age of 81.

Together with her beloved husband of 53 years CAPT. JESUS V. SAMSON (Ret. USAF); children MARION, MERCY (†), SAMUEL, SENEN, MILDRED & STEVE; in-laws ALDO, EUSEBIO (†), SUSAN, CYRILLE, KEITH & BAMBI; grandchildren SHYLA, SARAH, EUMIR, MICHELLE, SIMON, MARTIN and MICHAEL request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Relatives and friends are requested by the family to join them in the celebration of the Holy Mass at:

1. Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish Church 5:00 p.m. - Aug. 10, 2001 - Friday
 A. Aguirre Ave., cor F. Cruz, Phase 3, BF Homes, Parañaque
2. Bato, Camarines Sur Parish Church 2:30 p.m. - Aug. 12, 2001 - Sunday
3. Libon, Albay Parish Church 6:00 p.m. - Aug. 12, 2001 - Sunday

Message of Thanks

We the family of the late

CONSOLACION TANQUILUT CHINCUANCO

(January 25, 1907 - July 15, 2001)
 of Floridablanca, Pampanga

Thank you so much...
 for your prayers and Mass offerings... the flowers and kind donations...
 the sweet messages of sympathy... the thoughtful gestures...
 For just being there with us at the moment we needed it most.

May God bless you all...

*"I am
 not
 praying
 for
 the
 world,
 but
 for
 those
 You
 have
 given
 me,
 for
 they
 are
 Yours."*
 John 17:9

Our Dearly Beloved

MARIO ROBERTO "BOBBY" TIRONA y NATIVIDAD

Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City

Peacefully rests in the infinite warmth & embrace of our Lord on August 3, 2001 at the age of 47.

His loving wife Vernie & daughter Kyra Christlene; parents Engr. Eliseo C. Tirona & Estelita N. Tirona; sisters Corrine, Beth & Aggie; brothers-in-law Jett & Jonvic; nieces Mallit, Mytzech, Mic, Erika, Katherine, Rosanna & Andrea; nephews Alvin, Nikko, Angelo & Rafael request your prayers for his eternal happiness.

Mass will be celebrated daily at 6:00 p.m. Funeral Mass is on August 7, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. followed by Cremation Services at 12:00 nn.

Ruben O. Espiritu Sr.

of Bacolor, Pampanga and Butuan City
 Regional Vice-President (VFP) Region XIII-Caraga

*Peacefully joined our Lord on August 2, 2001
 at the age of 77.*

His wife Lilli (†); children Dr. Rey-Lulu, Ernesto (†), Edgie-Bebis, Buldick (†), Bebing-Karl Rabor, Butch-Lucylyn, Grace-Atty. Reny Ibay, Ay-ay-Lito Calimbas, Glenn-Tata, Bobby-An-an; and all his grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body now lies in the family residence, Butuan City. He will be laid to rest at San Vicente Memorial Park, Butuan City on August 5, 2001 at 1:00 PM.

ALBERT JUSTINO B. BUMANGLAG

*Our beloved "BABALU (BAB)"
 peacefully joined his Creator on July 31, 2001.*

His wife Cristina; Mom & Dad Dr. & Mrs. Emmanuel G. Bumanglag; brothers & sisters Manolo & Bella, Doris & Tonito, Ruth & Fulton, Ingrid & Ed, Cheryll & Alex, Dolly Jo & Boy, Castor & Mira; and his nephews & nieces request friends & relatives to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sto. Domingo Church (Chapel), Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced.

Col. Paulino S. Torio (Ret.)

*Joined his beloved wife Araceli and Creator
 on August 3, 2001 at the age of 91.*

His bereaved son Alex; sister Lucia; in-laws, nephews & nieces, relatives and friends, request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, August 9, 2001 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

AUGUSTO CRUZ FABROS

of Bataan and Las Piñas City

*Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
 on July 30, 2001 at the age of 51.*

He is survived by his wife Henrietta Austero-Fabros; children Mark Henry and Herlynn Grace; father Crescencio Fabros; mother-in-law Luz Austero; brothers and sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces.

His remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 5, 2001 after the Mass at 2:00 p.m.

*"We know that God raised the Lord
 Jesus from death. He will raise us to
 life with Jesus. He will present us,
 along with you, to God."*

2 Cor. 4:14



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**Loyola Memorial Park
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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

aespino@inquirer.com.ph

Siemens' new communication server takes businesses to the fast lane

A HOT new telephone system launched recently and exclusively distributed in the country by Wintelecom Inc., the official distributor of Siemens mobile phones, boasts high-end features for small to medium businesses.

The Hicom 150 E from Siemens, which is available in its Office Point, OfficeCom and OfficePro variants, introduces features that make telephone use faster, cheaper and more simple.

ICN-EN assistant manager for indirect sales Beth Espiritu says the Hicom system is a great fit with the needs of majority of Philippine companies which are typically small to medium sized. The Hicom 150 E, Espiritu adds, offers these companies the kind of features that are often only available to large corporations.

Among the cost-saving features of the Hicom 150 E system is a call routing function that automatically selects the least expensive carrier. This function directs calls to make the best of fares offered by different networks.

Depending on the time of the day and day of the week, this feature auto-

matically selects the most cost-effective route for an outgoing call.

The system can also be programmed to report call costs by extension, department or project. Other functions include pop-up menus and simple three-option response keys, electronic telephone books and pre-defined text messages (e.g. "visitor waiting"). The Hicom features are designed to make the telephones easy and fast to use, enabling users to maximize its benefits.

Distributed in the Philippines by Wintelecom Inc., the Hicom 150 E also offers a simple plug-in feature to link up with data systems. Units accommodate a wide variety of add-on devices through an adaptor, allowing each workstation to be as simple or as feature-rich as the user requires.

The system comes in three variants. The smaller Hicom 150 E OfficeCom can be a complete call-center phone system, providing all the professional PABX features needed by customers. Swapping out a few phone extensions, it can also serve as a multimedia hub connecting offices to WANs, the Internet and the world. Its server is just a

single 18-inch square cabinet that can be wall mounted in an office or a home and can support high-speed IT connections and ISDN PRI/BRI lines while handling up to 56 extensions.

Up to 48 Optiset digital phones can be connected to the server alongside a mix of analog phones, fax machines and other analog devices, with built-in ACD software to manage it all.

The Hicom 150 E OfficePro, on the other hand, answers the needs of medium-sized offices by accommodating up to 250 digital and analog extensions. It provides support for direct in-dial trunks, tie trunks (2- or 4-) and an interface for other analog line services. And it can connect up to 240 Optiset digital phones to it.

It is possible to implement configurations of up to 20 subscribers with the Hicom 150 E OfficePoint, the biggest variant, to meet all the communication requirements of smaller and medium-sized firms. It accommodates up to 450 digital and analog extensions.

For inquiries, call Wintelecom Inc. at 521-1111 or email winsale@attglobal.net.



NMW EXHIBITOR

Club Panoly recently inked an agreement with the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) to be part of its Trade and Consumer Exhibit from August 20 to 23 at the Glorietta Center Activity Area. This three-day exhibit is conducted in celebration of PMA's National Marketing Week, an annual event that features various activities for marketing practitioners, the academe and students. Shown during the contract signing are (from left) Jacob Gonzales, promotions events operations, Club Panoly; Maeyeth Cayabyab, NMW director in charge; JJ Rocas, PMA president; Ronald Jamocan, promotions and event planning supervisor, Club Panoly; and Fil Guba, PMA director.



SEQUEL SOLUTIONS FIRST FOR COMPAQ ALLIANCE

Sequel Solutions recently signed up with Compaq Computer Philippines Inc. for the Compaq Solutions Alliance (CSA) program. The CSA is a worldwide partnering program that supports companies who design, develop, implement and support customer solutions on Compaq platforms. Cliff M. Eala (left), president and CEO of Sequel Solutions and Nilo S. Cruz, Compaq's president and managing director, sign the contract. Sequel Solutions offers IT consulting services and develops mobile applications using the award-winning Compaq iPAQ Pocket PC. The Compaq Solutions Alliance program was launched in the Philippines middle of this year.



SIS NEW PARENTS' ORIENTATION

Southville International School, in cooperation with its Parents Association (Sispa), held its orientation program for new parents last May 26 at its School of the Future Center in its Luxembourg campus. Parents were introduced to the members of the school management and were presented with the curricular programs of the different levels such as the early childhood (preschool to grade 2), grade school (grades 3-6) and the high school (I-IV) and a video on the different activities at SIS. The activity also served as the opportunity for the new parents to know one another.



ABC'S NEW SALES AND MARKETING ARM

The sales and marketing requirements for both radio and television of the Associated Broadcasting Company (ABC) are now being exclusively serviced by its new marketing arm, The Associated Broadcast Marketing Corporation (ABMC). The appointment took effect July 1. ABMC is composed of veteran and new marketing and sales specialists headed by Dennis M. Caballin, who is credited with a long and proven track record in multifarious aspects of television as well as sales and marketing. The contract was recently signed by Edward U. Tan, ABC chair and managing director and Dennis Caballin, ABMC president and CEO. Witnessing for ABC were Edgardo C. Rocas, president; Roberto C. Limgenco, executive vice president (flanking Tan and Caballin) and Rosaura D. Zaragoza, consultant to the office of the chair (standing, extreme right). Witnessing for ABMC were Oscar A. Baldo, marketing services director and Nathaniel Miguel, executive assistant to the president and CEO.

Make Vibra-Mode a habit

DON'T you just get annoyed when some cellular phone users do not switch their phones to silent or vibrate mode when they are in public places, such as movie houses? This has become a real nuisance not just here in the country but in Hong Kong and other countries where cellular phones have become ubiquitous.

In Hong Kong, the office of telecommunications is already thinking of installing mobile-phone jamming devices in places such as movie houses, libraries and even churches. And a lot of people actually welcome the idea.

But others feel such a move may be too drastic. They argue that cutting off reception actually defeats the purpose of bringing phones. Hong Kong is home to some 5.2 million mobile phone users, which means that only about 1.7 million of its total population do not have mobile phones.

Such a drastic move may not be necessary, however, if mobile phones users would only have the courtesy and habit to put their phones in vibrate mode whenever they're watching a movie, a concert, or hearing mass.

Unfortunately, not all cellular phone brands provide the convenience of one-touch vibrate

function. In fact, one popular cell phone brand would require the user to go through two steps to turn the vibrate function on and another three steps to put it on silent mode.

This tedious process can actually discourage a mobile phone user who may have other more important things in mind when entering a concert venue or a seminar hall, for instance.

Fortunately, there is now a cellphone that has one-touch Vibra-Mode. The Panasonic GD92 has a one-touch vibrate function that, when pressed, also automatically turns the phone in silent mode. GD92 users don't have to really think about the whole process. Many GD92 users have confessed that turning their phones into Vibra-Mode before entering public venues is a habit that is easy to develop.

The GD92 is also a lightweight phone. At 77 grams it can fit almost any pocket or ladies' handbag.

It also boasts of other features such as mobile e-mail, Dictaphone, recordable ringer, T9 predictive text input, six-line display, hands-free function, and 4-color backlights. It has a maximum talk time of 3 hours and 30 minutes and a maximum standby time of 160 hours.

Sharp's TV ad of the year

THE COMMERCIAL for Sharp's Aphrodite Flat TV was given the TV Ad of the Year Award by the Creative Guild, an organization composed of the top creative directors of the Philippine advertising industry.

Entitled "Belly", the ad was developed by the Creative team of Don Sevilla III, Paul Suarez and Joey Melissa at Sharp's Ad Agency, Jimenez D' Arcy. It showed the advantage of having

a Sharp Aphrodite Flat TV (as well as a flat tummy). The piece won over 16 other finalists, and also bagged a special "Breakthrough in Category" award.

Previously, Sharp "Belly" received a Certificate of Excellence from the 2000 Asian Advertising Awards, given by Media, the most prestigious advertising publication in Asia. It was the sole Philippine winner for TV.

Shakey's gives away parties

A PARTY for free! Shakey's launches "Party On Us", a nationwide promo that will give away three Shakey's parties for free in three separate raffle draws.

It's so easy to join. Simply avail of a Shakey's party package worth P3,000 or more and you automatically join the raffle for another party for free. It's a whole lot of fun twice over.

Celebrate special times with friends and your family at Shakey's and experience an enjoyable, worry-free and memorable day as the partying at Shakey's continues.

Party raffle runs from March 15 to Dec. 7. Deadline for submission of entries are Sept. 7 and Dec. 7. Draw dates are Sept. 14 and Dec. 14. For party inquiries, visit your nearest Shakey's outlet or visit www.shakeyspizza.ph.



PHILAM PLANS' TERM INSURANCE BENEFIT

Philam Plans regional manager Andy de Guzman awards a check worth P307,913 to Florita Ecat for the term insurance benefit of the late Pio Ecat. The claim was made at the Philam Plans Ozamis branch in Western Mindanao. Witnessing the claim were (from left) agency manager Azucena Balat, sales counselor Marilyn Jumad and unit manager Vic Jumad.



ROCO VISITS INFORMATICS AT CHED CONGRESS

Showing his support to IT education, Education Secretary Raul Roco (extreme right) visited the Informatics booth during the 4th National CHED Congress held recently at the Manila Midtown Hotel. Also shown were (from left) Odie Mejario, CAL integration program coordinator; Floyd Banaban, Informatics business development assistant; Leif Inosanto, Informatics special projects manager; Frederick Pada, Ed. D., president emeritus of the Technological University of the Philippines and Odette Tabobo, PurpleTrain.com sales and marketing manager.



LAY'S CONTEST WINNERS

Lay's, the delicious potato chips brand made from real potatoes, recently announced the winners of the "Beat the Heat" merchandising contest. Conducted in Lay's key and secondary outlets in GMA, Luzon and Vismin, the participating contestants jazzed up their stores with creative and eye-catching summer displays. Outlets with the coolest and most attractive designs that created an impact on consumers were proclaimed winners. The lucky award recipients in GMA/Luzon key accounts are Shopwise Alabang (1st place), Parco Edsa (2nd place) and Robinsons Galleria (3rd place). For GMA/Luzon secondary accounts the winners are CSI Dagupan (1st place), Pioneer Center (2nd place) and Shoppersville (3rd place). These store outlets bagged cash and other exciting prizes from Benby Enterprises Inc. (BEI), distributor of Lay's Potato Chips. Shown during the awarding of Shoppersville are (second from left) Me-et Mercado, BEI senior product manager; Patricia Estanislao, Shoppersville operations manager; Rowena Ricarte, BEI retail sales agent; and Roehl Bagcus, BEI retail sales supervisor.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Notice is hereby given that LOLITA CORDON-YU whose picture appears above has a warrant of arrest issued on March 14, 2001 by the RTC-CALOCAN CITY (Branch 126) in the criminal case entitled "PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES versus LOLITA CORDON-YU, ET. AL." docketed as Criminal Case No. C-62063 for ESTABA THRU FALSIFICATION OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

LEON S. CRUZ and FAUSTINO C. GUTIERREZ both of 132-C J. RODRIGUEZ ST., CALOCAN CITY who are the complaining parties in the aforementioned case shall give REWARD to any information that will lead to her arrest.

Please direct calls to Atty. REYNALDO Z. CALABIO or in his absence to Ms. NORALYN COLLADO at Telephone Nos. 8111328 or 8111329.

(PDI - August 5, 2001)



PASAR
LIDE, Isabel, Leyte

INVITATION TO BID

The Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining (PASAR) Corporation is inviting all reputable bidders to pre-qualify and bid for:

1,800-2,000 MT of Scrap Metal

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for this bidding at 1:30 PM, Monday, August 13, 2001, PASAR Plant Site, LIDE, Isabel, Leyte. Failure to attend this conference is a ground for disqualification in the participation for the bidding.

Bid documents can be secured upon payment of PhP 100.00 from the following addresses:

Mr. Teodulfo A. Marquez
PASAR Corporation
6th Floor, The Linden Suites
37 San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Ms. Shermila B. Jampazar
PASAR Corporation
LIDE, Isabel, Leyte

Submission of bids is on or before 4:00 PM of August 27, 2001. A bid bond of twenty percent (20%) of the total bid amount, either in Manager's check or Cashier's check payable to PASAR, must accompany the submitted bid. The bid bond of the winning bidder shall be forfeited By PASAR as liquidated damages if the Buyer refuses to enter into contract or fail to complete its contract with PASAR.

PASAR reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or formalities herein assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense that they incur in the preparation of the bid, and award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the company.

(PDI - Aug. 5, 2001)



INQUIRER
RiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Standing question

Q. Why is standing in one spot more tiring than walking?

A. The reason for this is that in standing there is a constant demand on the same muscles. In walking or running, however, your weight is more equitably distributed among the 20 muscles in each of your feet and the 13 muscles in each leg above the feet. By the way, the soles of your feet contain more sweat glands and more pressure-sensitive nerve endings per square inch than any other part of your body. Also, the skin on the soles is thicker than the skin anywhere else on your body.

Contrary to common notion, flat feet can be perfectly normal and healthy. In fact people with well-aligned flat feet can endure longer periods on their feet than those with higher arches because the weight on flat feet is distributed over a larger area.

First of All. The world's first popularly marketed sneaker was Keds, introduced by the US Rubber company in 1917. The name suggested "kids" and rhymed with *ped*, the Latin root word for "foot." Those first sneakers were neither all white, nor white soles with black canvas; rather, the soles were black and the canvas was a conservative chestnut brown, because at the time that was the popular color for American men's leather shoes.

Past Forward. This day in 1914: The world's first electric lights were installed at the junction of 105th St. and Euclid in Cleveland, Ohio. The manufacturer, the Traffic Signal Co. of Cleveland, had fitted the light with a bell that rang when the color changed.

WORD WATCH

Traffic (traf ik) : from the Italian *trafficare*, "to trade" or "to bring."

PDI - Aug. 5, 2001



INVITATION TO BID

Equipment for Sale	One (1) Local Exchange Switch (SEIMENS EMS 601N TELEPHONE SWITCH)
Minimum Bid Price	P30,805,390.00
Location	BayanTel Warehouse, Luz Village, Butuan City. 8600

EQUIPMENT DETAILS

8 EMS 601N Switches
Combined Capacity = 3500
Combined Trunk Capacity = 1050
Type: Digital PABX
Details:
8 Cabinets: With individual capacity of 656; 592; 680; 680; 336; 256; 150; 150lines respectively
With individual trunk capacity of: 180; 150; 210; 210; 210; 30; 30; 30 respectively
Accessories:
9 Units Rectifier charger, DC 48/30A
4 units Booth Attendant Console
IDF (Intermediate Distribution Frame)
3 cabinets with power supply: DCS 1000s

The management of BayanTel: Northern Mindanao would like to invite interested parties to bid on its Seimens EMS 601N Digital Telephone Switch with a capacity of 3,500 lines.

Date of Bidding : October 1, 2001
Time of Bidding : 2:00 p.m.
Venue of Bidding : 4/F BAYANTEL BUILDING, M. CALO ST., BUTUAN CITY

The terms of the bidding are as follows:

- Sealed bids shall be submitted not later than 5:00 p.m. on September 28, 2001.
- Bid shall be accompanied by a Manager/Cashier's Check drawn in favor of Bayan Telecommunications, Inc. (BayanTel) in the amount equivalent to 10% of the bid price (the "bid bond").
- Winning Bidder shall pay the bid price within five (5) days from the notice of the award; otherwise the bid shall be forfeited.
- Sale shall be on a "as is where is basis".
- Switch shall be pulled-out only after full payment of bid price.
- Cost to dismantle and transport the switch from BayanTel's premises shall be for bidder's account.
- Any and all taxes, if any, due on the sale or to effect transfer of title to the switch in the name of the bidder shall be for bidders account.
- BayanTel reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason whatsoever.
- Cost of maintenance and storage shall be added to the winning bid price if item remains unclaimed by the winning bidder after seven (7) days from notice of winning bid.

For inquiries, request for ocular inspection and bidding forms, please call the Office of the General Manager at (85) 341-1515 look for Mr. Sonny Montilla.

(PDI - Aug. 5 & 12, 2001)



Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor & Employment
POEA Bldg., Ortigas Avenue Cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City 1501
P.O. Box 175 Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. 722-1144 / 722-1155 • E-mail: info@poea.org.ph
Website: www.poea.org.ph

INVITATION FOR ACCREDITATION

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) shall undertake an annual accreditation and pre-qualification of prospective bidders for the supply of the following:

- Office Supplies
 - Computer Supplies
 - Construction and Electrical Supplies
 - Computer Equipment (Hardware and Software)
 - Air-conditioner Equipment
 - Repairs and Maintenance Service:
 - Computer
 - Air-conditioner
 - Typewriters
 - Service and Utility Vehicles
 - Printing Services
 - Car Rental Services
 - Construction Companies
 - Pest Control Services
- The prospective bidders are required to submit on or before August 30, 2001 for the Pre-qualification Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), Pre-qualification Secretariat, General Services and Property Division (GSPD), 5th flr. POEA Building, Ortigas Avenue corner EDSA, Mandaluyong City, the following pre-qualification data/documents:
- Current Business Mayor's Permit
 - SEC Registration/CDA Registration/BDT Registration of Business Name
 - Articles of Incorporation/Partnership, Articles of Cooperation in case of Cooperatives and By-Laws
 - Financial Statements for the past 2 years with corresponding Income Tax Returns certified by an Accountant and which bear the imprint of the BIR as proof that the same had been submitted to the BIR for tax purposes as well as the corresponding Official Receipt.
 - SSS Registration Certificate
 - VAT Registration Certificate
 - Company Profile (Including the year the company started operations)
 - Company Organization Chart
 - Bio-Data of Key/Technical Personnel with corresponding years of experience
 - List of sample clients or projects completed, their addresses, telephone numbers including contract amount
 - Bank Certificates as to Fund Balances
 - Notarized Certificates/Board Resolution of Authorized Signatory to Bid Documents
- The pre-qualification data submitted by the prospective bidders are to be used in determining, according to the PBAC's sole judgment and discretion, the eligibility and competence of the prospective bidders. The bidders in submitting their qualification for review, waive any claim against the Administration that may arise with respect to any adverse decision that may be rendered thereon.
- Only pre-qualified and accredited suppliers shall be allowed to join the biddings on the said items to be conducted within the year.
- The POEA reserves the right to pre-qualify and accredit further or to disqualify any prospective bidder without incurring any obligation to the affected bidders.

(Sgd.) LORNA O. FAJARDO
Deputy Administrator

(PDI - Aug. 5, 2001)



Republika ng Pilipinas
KAGAWARAN NG PAGSASAKA
PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN SA NUTRISYON
(NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL)
Villamor Interchange, South Superhighway
Makati City, Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Nutrition Council is inviting all eligible bidders for the following:

- One (1) unit Multi Media Data Projector with built-in CCD Camera
 - Four (4) units Notebook computer Pentium III at least 650 MHZ (unbranded)
 - Printing of the following:
 - 216,825 cps. - Poster on Nutritional Guidelines for Filipinos
 - 136,950 cps. - Posters on fruits and vegetables
 - 42,000 cps. - Komiks on fruits & vegetables
 - 20,000 cps. - Poster calendar on fruits & vegetables
 - About Sixteen (16) sets Lightweight, portable, collapsible exhibit panels
- 23 August 2001** - Pre-bid conference at 1:30 p.m. at NNC Conference Room
27 August 2001 - Submission of eligibility documents at the office of the Chair of BAC
30 August 2001 - Submission of bid envelopes and opening of bid envelopes 9:00 a.m. at NNC Conference Room

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid bond, bid security, pre-bid conference, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of EO No. 302 and its implementing rules and regulations as amended by E.O. No. 262 dated July 5, 2000 and other applicable rules and regulations.

The NNC-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive minor informalities, or accept such bids which will be advantageous to the government. The NNC-BAC for any reason may annul the bidding process at any time prior to the awarding of the contract without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidders. Decision of NNC BAC is final and binding.

For further information, please call Ms. Myrna M. Claveria, Officer-In-Charge, Administrative Division at Telephone No. 816-4238 & 843-5824.

(Sgd.) CAROLINA B. BATALLONES
Deputy Executive Director

(PDI - Aug. 5 & 6, 2001)



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PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT - (2) 5000, 2000, 900 Litre Stainless Steel Mixing Tanks; Asstd. Stainless Steel Mixing Vessels; Stainless Steel Drum, Portable Mixing Vessels, Transfer Pumps, Mobile Platform, Mobile Belt Conveyors, Transfer Conveyors, Work Surfaces, Platforms, etc.
LABORATORY - SHIMADZU GC Gas Chromatograph; PERKIN ELMER Spectrophotometer; WALTER Liquid Chromatograph; (2) WALTERS 510 HPLC Pumps; WALTERS 490 E431 Programmable Multiwave Detectors; BECKMAN 12F4B Aquameter; WANKEL Friabilator; MIRAN 1B2 Air Analyzer; SKC Sample Calibrator; HANSON 6460 Heat Circulator; HOTPACK Vacuum Oven; LABCONCO Acid Cleaning System; LABLINE Oven; BECKMAN 3500 Digital PH Meter; BLUE M Muffle Furnace; HACH Turbidimeter; ENGELSMANN Volumeter; BARREL Wrist Action Shaker; LABLINE Multi Magnesia; AQUA Q Water Purification System; BF PERKINS Mullen Tester; Asstd. Digital Scales; Stainless Steel Storage Cabinets; Stereo Zoom Microscopes; Asstd. Glassware, Chemicals, etc.
ELECTRODIALYSIS REVERSAL SYSTEM - PENFIELD Electrodialysis Reversal System Comprising: (2) Multi Filters, Activated Carbon Filter, AQUAFINE Ultra Violet Sterilizer, Heat Exchanger, FINN AQUA 500 HX Desalination Unit, Ultra Filtration Unit, PENFIELD Polishing Cation Unit, PENFIELD Primary Cation Anion, Demineralization, EDR Product Storage Tank
WAREHOUSE EQUIPMENT & SERVICES - A Huge Qty. Of Pallet Racking; Wooden/Plastic Pallets; Steel Cages; TOYOTA/KOMATSU 1.5T Cap. Gas Operated Forklifts; YALE Battery Operated 1T Cap. Pedestrian Type Forklifts; Asstd. Battery Operated Pedestrian Type Forklifts; Battery Chargers; Hand Pallet Trucks; Sack Barrows; CM 27 Cap. Electric Hoist
PRINTING MACHINERY - OKADA, PETERS, HADA Label Printer; KK Model 600 Imprinter; DIAGRAPH BRADLER Stencil Machine
MISCELLANEOUS - Stainless Steel Scoops; BOSTITCH Foot Pedal Stapler; Stainless Steel Storage Cabinets; (2) TOLEDO 10 Kg. Cap. Weighing Scales; Personnel Lockers; Aluminum Cubicles; Sleep Ladders; Aluminum Decontamination Air Shower; (4) PRECISION Low Temperature Incubators; KEW High Pressure Washers; INGERSOLL RAND Reciprocating Air Compressors; Asstd. Pumps; Electric Motors; TORIT Dust Extractor; Insect Repellants; Heavy Duty Vacuum Cleaners Stainless Steel Drinking Fountains; Emergency Lights, etc.
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VERALUZ INTERNATIONAL CORP.

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY/APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Isabela State University would like to invite interested contractors to pre-qualify/apply for eligibility for the following projects:

Project	Approved Budget
1. Continuation of the Construction of the Academic Building, San Mateo Campus	P 922,000.00
2. Continuation of the Construction of the Academic Building, Jones Campus	P 922,000.00

Only duly licensed and accredited contractors with small "C" category shall be accepted for pre-qualification/eligibility. The PBAC Secretariat of ISU, Echague, Isabela shall issue application forms for Pre-qualification/Eligibility upon request.

- August 17, 2001 - Last day of submission of Pre-qualification documents to PBAC Secretariat.
- August 30, 2001 - Last day of issuance of plans and specification, conditions, and other bid documents upon presentation of certificate of pre-qualification.
- August 31, 2001 - Pre-Bid Conference to be attended by the contractors or his duly authorized representative (Civil Engineers or Architect)
- 9:00 AM - Opening of Bid Proposals, 9:00 AM, Alba Hall, Administration Building

More information shall be obtained from the PBAC Secretariat or call (078) 672-2020. The Isabela State University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) EMERENCIANA B. CLARAVALL, Ph.D.
Vice President for Administrative Services and Chairman, PBAC

(PDI - Aug. 5, 2001)

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O/c Raquel 0917-4149898

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Restaurateur with Midas touch also has a kind hand



Maritel Nievera, the woman behind Cabalen, saw her blessings multiply when she went out of her way to give a little cheer to Pinatubo's victims

Story on page C2

Angel of the slum

At 70, Sr. Christine Tan, who has lived in the worst conditions of inner-city slums, says it's still a beautiful world

Story on page C6



THE COURAGEOUS SOUL: Sr. Christine Tan



movies parties events shops

AWG GENTXT gigguide

Friday Nights

R&B Nights at H2O Cebu

Bump 'n grind to the latest R&B sounds at H2O! All GENTXTers get in for free, and if you arrive from 8PM to 10PM, you'll get a free iced tea and Nacho Picante. Just present your GENTXT card at the door.

Time: 8:00 PM, every Friday of August
Venue: H2O, Cebu

Saturday Nights

Weepac at National Sports Grill

Party in Manila's premiere sports-themed restaurant! Free entrance to all GENTXTers, with free soda going to GENTXTers who will come in from 9PM to 11PM. Just present your GENTXT card at the door.

Time: 9:00 PM, every Saturday of August
Venue: National Sports Grill, Greenbelt Mall

17

"Shrek" Advanced Screening

Funnymen Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, and Cameron Diaz star in this wonderful animated comedy about a princess, an ogre, and his donkey. 500 GENTXTers will each win a pair of tickets.

Time: 7:30 PM
Venue: Glorietta 4, Cinema 6

18

GODSKITCHEN

A Deliciously Stylish Night of 21st Century Disco featuring DJ AJ Gibson.

UK Superclub GODSKITCHEN storms into Manila with a massive ultra-cool dance party that's sure to be a feast for the eyes AND ears. Existing GENTXTers just need to flash their GENTXT card at the entrance to get in for only P100!

Time: 10:00 PM
Venue: Glorietta Mall Activity Center

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Globe HandypHONE subscribers ages 18 to 29 who file for GENTXT membership at special booths in Tower Records and Music One in Glorietta get FREE entrance to GODSKITCHEN. Take advantage of this special offer and get a GENTXT membership at 50% off - just P100! From August 3 to 18 only.

Time: August 3-18
Venue: Tower Records / Music One

25

GENTXT Movie Night

A special GENTXTer-only event! Mark Wahlberg finds himself in a world where Apes are king and humans are outlaws. 200 lucky GENTXTers will each win a pair of tickets.

Time: 7:30 PM
Venue: Glorietta 4, Cinema 3 THX

31

Rage Night (in cooperation with 99.5RT)

15 lucky GENTXTers will win a pair of tickets to this smooth and funky party featuring South Border and True Faith.

Time: 8:00 PM
Venue: Hard Rock Cafe, Glorietta 3

how to win tickets:

All official GENTXT members based in Manila can join this offer.

1. On August 13, just key-in GENTXT and send it to 8GENTXT (8436898), 8AM to 5PM only.
2. Lucky members will be informed on August 15, via text message through 8436898. If they won tickets and the specific movie/event they can attend. Please save this text message.
3. Winners can claim their tickets at the venue of the specified event. Look for the GENTXT representative, show your GENTXT card, valid ID with photo and the saved message to get your tickets.
4. See flyers or visit www.gentxt.org for more details.

special offers

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- Membership fee of P200 to be paid upon approval of application.

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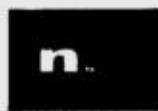
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You can get and submit your application forms at all Globe Telecom Business Centers and selected GENTXT events. Also check out GENTXT special promos and discounts through GlobeXplore and InfoText. Via GlobeXplore: click on "info", then select "Globe info", then select "GENTXT". Through InfoText: key in GENTXT to know about the latest events for the month or GENTXT ESTABS (establishment groups) (establishment groups are: A-E, F-J, K-O, P-T and U-Z, then send to 2333).

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Restaurateur with Midas touch also has a kind hand

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA

THE WOMEN of Pampanga are widely known for two traits—their inherent talent for cooking and their hardiness or industry. Cabalen's mother hen, Maritel Nievera, is

the embodiment of those traits, and the life she has lived thus far only goes to show her love for her roots and all things Kapampangan.

Like most of the women from her province, Maritel had been ingrained with a passion for good food

and cooking. With the kitchen as her element, she would concoct recipes, day in and day out, and cook to her and her family's delight. Raised by a single parent, her role models as a young girl were her *lola* and her mother from whom, she says, she learned strength of character.

"I was always exposed to these strong women who led such focused lives, who ran their businesses with such intensity that I guess it rubbed off on me," she says. "By nature, Kapampangan women are stronger than the men," she adds, letting out a girlish laugh.



PAMPANGA'S DAUGHTER. Maritel Nievera cares for her province's children.

It was not all roses, however, for the young Maritel whose first heartache came when she was a young girl of 6 after her father left to migrate to the United States to build a new life, leaving his family behind. "That was really so painful because I was quite close to my father and so his departure really had an effect on me." Perhaps it was the pain of his leaving that made the young Maritel resolve to do better in life. "I saw how my mother raised us single-handedly and I promised myself even back then that whatever it was I would get into, I would make sure I would do well."

Business

Leaving Pampanga in the mid-1980s she ventured into a business close to her heart, one where she felt she could do well. The first Cabalen branch opened for business on West Avenue in Quezon City. After a few years, a second one opened at Megamall and soon there were three.

In 1995, business was not so good and events in Pampanga, after Mt. Pinatubo had exploded back in 1991, was not any better. During a major typhoon Maritel heard over the radio and saw footage on television that showed things were worsening in the town of Bacolor. "Somehow I had an eerie feeling that day that something terrible was going to happen. I had a house located a kilometer away from Bacolor and so I was quite familiar with the terrain."

True enough, it was during that series of typhoons that the town of Bacolor practically went under. Something tugged at Maritel's heartstrings when she saw the faces of all the families and children who had been rendered homeless by the tragedy that struck their town. Thus, in December of 1995, Maritel decided to set aside roughly 5 percent of the gross sales at her restaurant to provide goods for the people of Bacolor town.

By February, which Maritel likes to call "love month," together with her family and staff, she ventured quietly into the town and gave the gift away bags herself. "Noong una, people thought I was out there because I was planning to run for public office," she relates with a grin. "I was there because I really felt for the people. Walang political agenda 'yon."

Benevolence

Five years hence, Maritel's outreach to the children of Pampanga continues. Since 1996, she has brought joy to the children from the resettlement areas of Panipuan, Malino and Bulaon Day Care in San Fernando, Pampanga; Barang-

ay Pulung Maragui in Angeles; and the barangays of Catmon, Tonsuya, Concepcion, Baritan and Bayanbayan in Malabon.

The gift bags usually contain school supplies, toys, T-shirts, candies, grooming tools and food. "We give them the things that they can use and enjoy right away," Maritel explains. The gift bags are given directly to each child "para hindi na maitago ng nanay," she says with a smile.

Why children in particular? "Malambot talaga ang puso ko sa bata," she begins, "I remember how, as a child, I also had to go through the taunts of some of our classmates and playmates because they knew we had no father and so they would say terrible things about us."

Thus, perhaps Maritel feels a certain kinship with the pain that these children have had to go through, losing their homes and being displaced. Though Maritel's suffering was more of an emotional hurt, it was still a pain nonetheless.

Blessings

For Maritel, the blessings have returned a hundredfold. Since starting her outreach, Cabalen's business took off like anything. From three branches in 1996, there are now a total of eight all over Metro Manila. "That was farthest from my mind when I started to help and reach out. Hindi ko talaga iniisip iyon. Now, when I look back, oo nga, it's when I started to give back that He has also rewarded me a hundredfold," she says.

In spite of all the heartaches she has had to go through, Maritel retains a caring and pleasant disposition. One can see it in the way that she goes about her business, as she talks to the busboys, waiters and supervisors at Cabalen. She treats them all with a gentle but firm hand and they in turn know that when push comes to shove, they can go to Ma'am Maritel for help and not come away empty-handed.

"Yung pagtutulon, it has to begin where you are. You cannot help people outside and not attend to the people who work for you. We are a family here," she explains with motherly pride.

Maritel attributes her success to sheer determination, focus and prayer. "Kung iisipin ko 'yung nakakatakot, hindi ako makakagalaw. I just go on and do my best. If it won't work, then I'll try again. For me nothing is impossible. Nasa diskarte mo lang iyan," she ends with a smile.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph



CABALEN'S mother hen at an outreach in Pampanga

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Autism conference features British expert

DR. Paul Shattock, O.B.E., director of the Autism Research Unit of the University of Sunderland, United Kingdom, will be the main speaker in the 7th National Conference on Autism on Oct. 26-28, at the 5/F, IEC Convention Hall, National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Complex, Edsa, Quezon City.

Sponsored by the Autism Society Philippines, the theme of the conference is "Looking at Autism from a Lifespan Perspective."

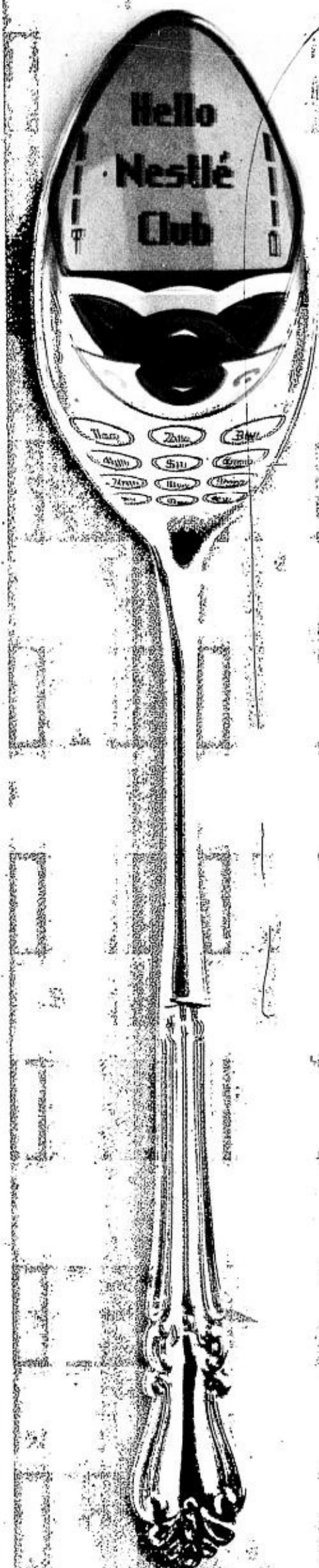
Aside from Shattock, other noted speakers from the medical field will share their knowledge on the latest researches in genetics, neurology and the biomedical fields; on controversial issues like secretin and vaccines; and on the use of medications in the management of autism, among others.

Shattock, who was conferred the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II for his significant role in establishing services for adults with autism in Great Britain, will discuss research studies on diet intervention and environmental factors in autism. He is the father of Jamie, a 30-year-old with autism.

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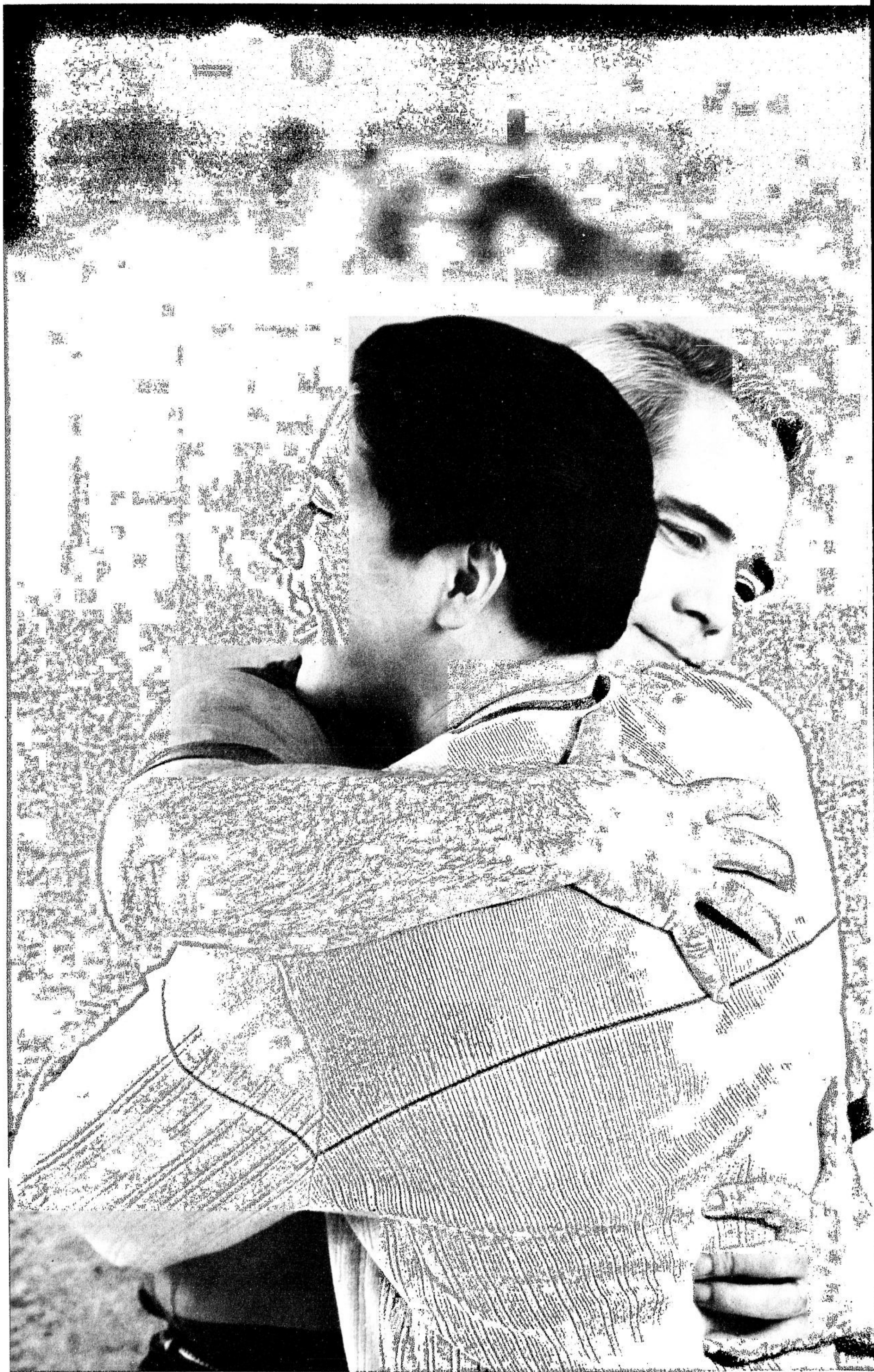
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A new oyster opens at the Eastwood City Walk

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Via Mare Oyster Bar is now at Eastwood City Walk, E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (formerly Libis), Quezon City.
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SEATED, from left, Marivic del Rosario and Sr. Christine Tan. Standing, from left, Nene Oledan, Marina Membrot, Bernadette Salazar, Josellito Quillo, Enrico Martinez, Arthur Garalde, Lynlie Noynay, Anying Sabate, Ruth Damasco and Leonisa Canonoy

Angel of the slum

BY VANGIE BAGA-REYES
PHOTOS BY JULIA NAVASERO

YOU cannot find my home. It's hard to locate. I live in the squatter area," says Sr. Christine Tan when asked for an interview. "This is what you do, go to the Manila Zoo main gate and I would ask someone to pick you up there."

True enough, *Manang Evelyn*, one of her errand ladies, met me at the gate and led me to the "squatter area" in Leveriza, Pasay City. We turned several rights and lefts along cramped and narrow but well-paved inner streets bustling with women doing their daily laundry, shirt-less men chatting the day away, and children playing hide and seek. Finally, we reached a confined street where a nice concrete three-story house painted in yellow (the only house I noticed with a house paint) stood out.

No, it wasn't the house of the Good Shepherd nun. Hers is the one beside it—an unpainted, modest house with wooden screen door. Inside, there are no luxurious household furnishings, only a wooden round table and two monobloc chairs that occupy the entire living room. Sharing the sparse space in the living room are the bathroom and the kitchen, where plates and pans are neatly piled in the wooden cabinet. The stairs leading to the second floor led me to see how the nuns get their sleep—only on the wooden floor. No beds, no comforters, no night table lamp. The only accessories you see are a small mirror, a computer, a dresser and a ceiling fan without its metal face. The third floor is where a small altar is located.

Living this kind of life for the past 21 years in Leveriza makes Sr. Mary Christine Tan attuned to the call of poverty God asked of her many years ago. The unassuming servant of God strongly feels that God is truly alive in this kind of setting. She's genuinely happy being with the poor. "When you are happy God is there. God loves the poor so much," says the soft-spoken nun.

Sister Christine admits that her immersion among the poor for the past 20 years has made all the difference in her life. It is among the forgotten and the lost that she has found the true essence of her religious vocation. She has built a home, a permanent home, in the hearts of the poor, asking nothing in return, but only the grace of God. Like Sr. Christine, the other sisters in the house generally go about their mission quietly, refusing to be overwhelmed by the pervasive misery they encounter, drawing strength only from the hope that life might become better.

Indigence

It has always been the slums for Sister Christine, although born to wealth and prominence (being the daughter of the late Judge Bienvenido Tan Sr.), she chose a life of poverty and human rights advocacy. She herself is proof that one can be born to riches and fortune but still choose to live among the poorest of the poor to fulfill the Gospel mandate.

Like anyone else, Sister Christine has gone through a lot of trials and tribulations in her advocacy. One sore test came last year when she was rudely and hastily dismissed as a director of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Sr. Christine had taken the job at the PCSO because she wanted to be able to channel funds to the poor. But in the board, she criticized and questioned the politicking that influenced the release of funds otherwise meant for the alleviation of the conditions of the poor. The criticism led to her dismissal.

But she was unfazed. People who knew her well were not surprised.

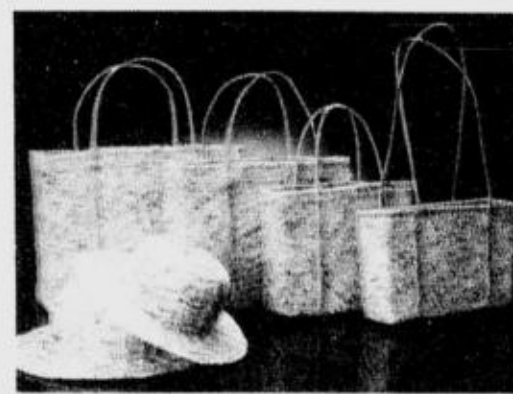
Street marchers from the dark Marcos years knew it was vintage Sister Christine—straightforward, unflinching. Many people knew what Sister Christine did during the Marcos era. At that time, the nun fought the dictatorship. She was a fearless leader, leading the Association of Major Religious Superiors of Women of the Phils. in protesting the repressiveness of Marcos.

Even now, Sister Christine possesses the qualities of integrity, patriotism, selflessness and dedication. But humility is her greatest virtue.

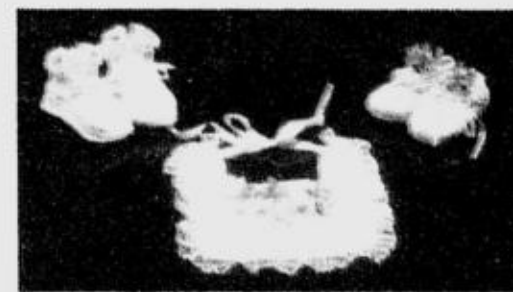
And, despite of all her troubles, Sister Christine claims she never cries. "Maybe I grew up that way. I only feel sad because of the rottenness and deficiencies of our country. I also get mad when politicians say they are for the poor but in truth they are not," she says.

With all her advocacy and activities, Sister Christine, at 70, admits her physical body gets tired. "But I have a form of relaxation," she reveals. "I swim in the swimming pool in some private houses. I also watch movies with my friends." The last movie she saw was "Jurassic Park 3," with some kids from the slums.

To completely calm and comfort her, Sister Christine immerses herself in deep prayer, keeping silent for hours. "God does the talking, while I do the listening. In prayer, when you go into



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deep silence, you can actually feel God. You and God are merged as one."

Livelihood

Sister Christine's NGO work and livelihood projects for the poor of Leveriza in Pasay City are steadily picking up. The women of Alay Kapwa have their hands full with all the income-generating projects they make. "I'm very happy for them," says the nun. "You just need to motivate them. It's for their survival."

Alay Kapwa initially started as a spiritual support group for the urban poor of Leveriza. It catered to the women—*labanderas*, *tinderas* and jobless mothers—who attended Bible studies and Sunday Mass.

But survival was the name of the game, so when Sister Christine suggested they make towels as livelihood, the stage was set for a more integrated program that would marry spiritual conversion and economic amelioration. Alay Kapwa's initial attempts at income-generating projects were crude (their first shot at soap-making consisted of working on the doorstep with a pail, an empty soft drink bottle, and a thermometer as equipment). But valuable assistance from resource people and the women's perseverance saw the organization bloom beyond anyone's expectations.

Today, the NGO's handmade products are generating income for the group. They include pretty crochet items, candles of all shapes, sizes and scents, soaps, greeting cards, decorative wrought-iron candleholders and delicious foodstuff, such as sweet *sampaloc*.

But what stands out among the handmade items are the specialty products created from recycled materials, such as the telephone yellow pages. Rolled, woven, glued and painted, the materials are metamorphosed into fancy *bilao*, pencil case, waste basket, letter container, pencil holder, coaster, tissue holder and others.

Unique bags made from tetra pak have also been hot sellers. "We ask our children to pick up and collect the tetra packs in the streets," says *Manang Auring*, caretaker of the Alay Kapwa display center. "We wash them and sew them together to create bags of different sizes. Click na click sila sa mga Hapon."

Most of the handmade products are exported to the United States, Canada, Japan and Germany. And, Alay Kapwa's tribe has increased from a handful of women to 500 workers in Pandacan, Cavite, Sariaya, Quezon and Cebu.

Thanks to Sister Christine, the poor women of Leveriza and elsewhere have seen and felt God's grace and mercy.

Alay Kapwa's Gawaang Kamay Coop is at 2258 Interior 4, corner Kapitana and B. Lipunan Streets, Leveriza, Malate; tel., 522-1809/6478

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



HANDMADE dillies



ASSORTED candles made by Alay Kapwa women

Lipton Ice Tea

RESTO-ROUNDS

Taters STADIA: A whole new game in dining

At the theater level of the newly renovated Greenbelt Mall in Ayala Center, Makati City, a familiar yet different dining place has been attracting yuppies, students, as well as movie and concert fanatics alike for its great tasting food and unique ambience. The place is called Taters STADIA.

While it retained the baseball theme of its cinema snack bar brother, Taters STADIA is in a league of its own as a full-service resto-bar that covers all bases with a new array of healthier mouth-watering menu and inimitable beverage concoctions.

STADIA is also kind of nostalgic with photos of baseball greats like Mickey Mantle, Babe Ruth and Ken Griffey, Jr. and other memorabilia adorning the walls, not to mention the depiction of different stadia (hence the name). One corner features a mock-up of the Roman Coliseum while another highlight is a US baseball stadium complete with cyclone wires and electronic scoreboard.

But the place's biggest attraction is the food. For starters, Taters STADIA brings to the fore a healthy salad combination of giant nachos, lettuce, tomatoes, ground chicken meat, kidney beans, whole kernel corn, bell peppers and grated cheese, served with hot salsa. There's also an appetizing no-meat salad composed of shredded crabsticks, lettuce, cucumber, corn and hard-boiled egg.

The Plates of Hits and Runs are the low-fat main courses of championship caliber. Start with a unique dish of ground

chicken and turkey meat cooked with lite beer for an exquisite taste or savor the delectable goodness of a teriyaki-glazed chicken leg quarter served with buttered corn on the cob plus your choice of saffron rice or mashed potato. The resto-bar's All-Star Sandwich lines are also winners as they are not only delectable, but also healthy as well with its low-fat ingredients and hi-fiber bread.

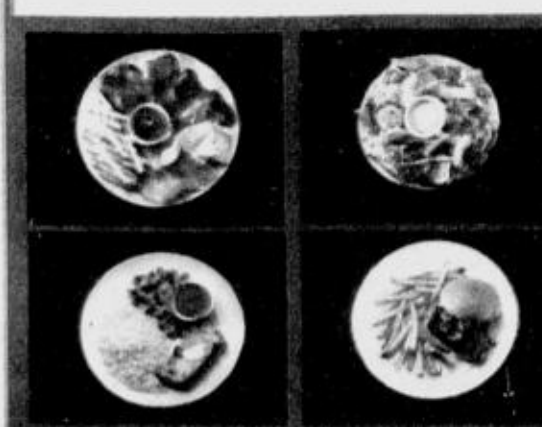
To share with your friends the snacks that made Taters famous at the cinemas, the League of our Own is perfect. It is composed of great-tasting samplers of munchers, onion rings, crunch-bagger chips, official club fries, nachos, popcorn, peanuts, plus a pitcher of Lipton Ice Tea as complimentary drink. Have it ice cold or even hot, Lipton Ice Tea goes well with any appetizing dish.

Lipton Ice Tea is the most ordered beverage at the STADIA by those who want the best out of life. They are "young," "innovative," "extroverts," "sociable" yet "totally responsible." Truly, there is no other drink that understands the youth better than Lipton Ice Tea.

Aside from its great-tasting gigfood, Taters STADIA's casual and relaxing ambience also makes it an ideal hangout among young professionals in the nearby Makati business district. After a tiring day at work or while waiting for the rush hour traffic to subside, they can get together with friends and enjoy the STADIA's special bar chows and exquisite cocktail concoctions, all of which include Lipton Ice Tea for added zest. Indeed, people who have known Taters are in for a pleasant surprise at the STADIA. It's a whole new game in dining.



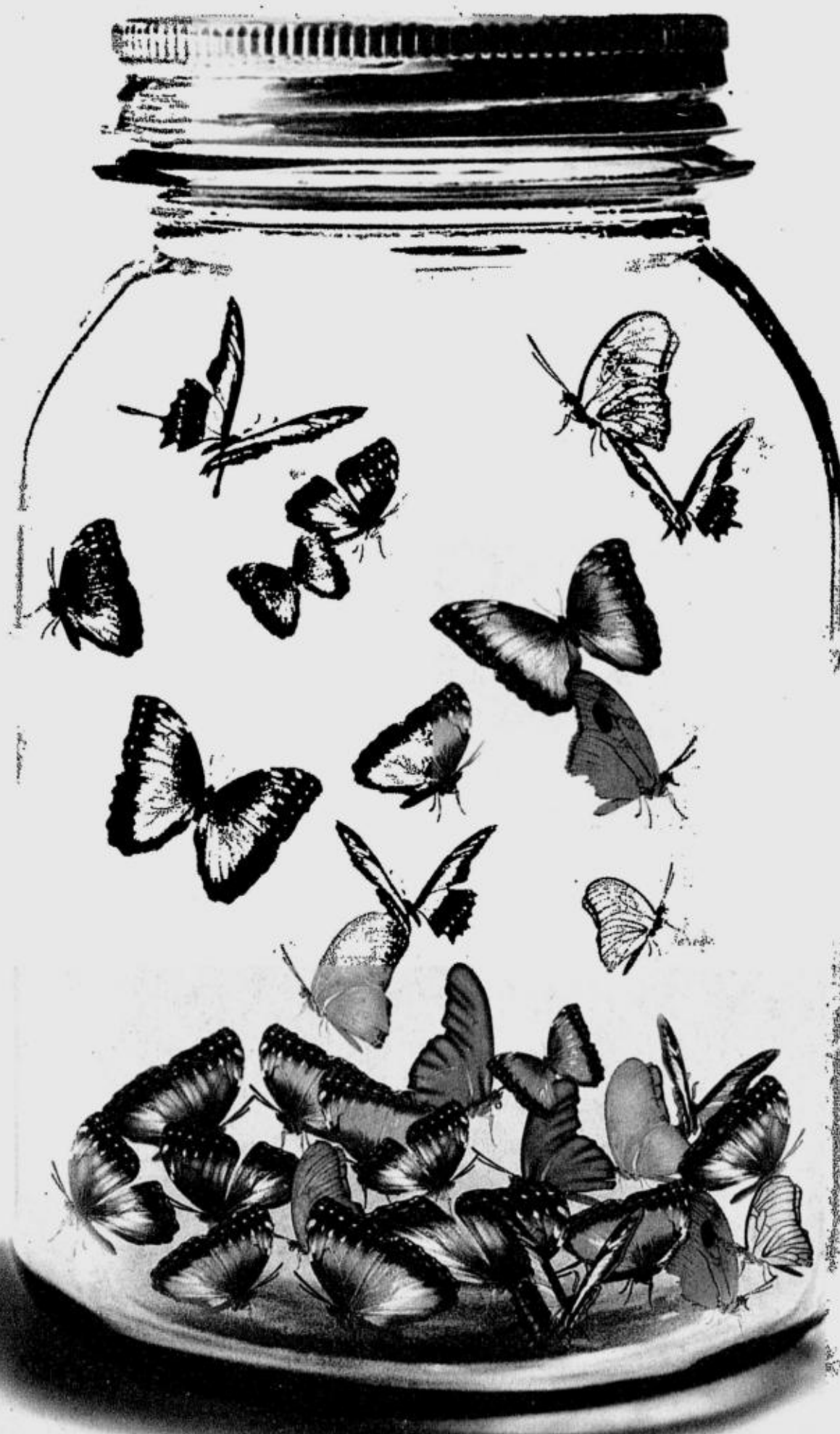
The "Resto-Rounds" series is being brought to you by Lipton Ice Tea - the perfect partner for any dining experience.



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LITO ATIENZA

Disarming candor from the demolition mayor

Have you been forgiven for tearing down the Jai-Alai? (Laughter) I don't think so . . . Actually, the Mehan Garden is the continuation, I think . . .

PLAYTIME

By the staff

OF LATE, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza has been in the limelight. His efforts at urban renewal in the Noble City have been criticized as mostly ignoble. He has received several blows to his character not just for his irreverence toward what certain groups consider as structures and spots worthy of conservation, but for his actual demolition of historical sites.

Considered as the mayor's major blunder is the tearing down of the Art-Deco Jai Alai Building where he envisions building a Hall of Justice. Now Atienza wants to build Manila's city college in one corner of Mehan Garden.

Despite the brickbats, however, the mayor remains cool, calm and collected. "They are my friends," he says of the conservationists who have been condemning him at rallies and in the media.

The way he's carrying on, few people will believe that Atienza is an architecture graduate from the University of Santo Tomas. It took him eight years to get his degree in between international tours with the Bayanihan dance troupe, where he and his future wife, Beng, met and fell in love.

But few people also know that in his bid to promote a culture of life, Mayor Atienza has put up a crisis center with his wife. With the help of the Department of Social Welfare and Development and some NGOs, the center has saved a total of 91 abandoned babies since it was founded five years ago.

Atienza, who has eight children (two are adopted) and eight grandkids, is very much against population control and instead supports responsible parenthood, the strengthening of values and the "natural way of controlling one's urges." He has been president of the Prolife Movement for 10 years now. Overpopulation, he believes, is a plus factor if there is good governance, leadership by example and discipline.

Under the Buhayin ang Maynila program that he started three years ago, he believes he has given his city what it needs—an honest-to-goodness development plan. But, wait, can development and preservation coexist? Will something be left of the old and venerable city with Atienza calling the shots at City Hall? Read on and find out.

Do you take your grandkids to Mehan Garden?

No. Mehan Garden now? You wouldn't yours, too. Mehan Garden today is not a garden. Mehan Garden is a name. What I want is to develop it into a genuinely pleasant place worthy of being called a garden once again.

You're not going to take out the garden?

No, no—develop it. And part of the development is to inject life into it. Because I have a problem, *yung city college namin nandoon sa Escolta na nabubulok na yung building*. It's an old antiquated one. Students are forced to walk up and down eight flights of stairs and there's always the danger of an accident. These are children coming from poor families, *libre yung kolehiyo pero walang kuenta naman yung kanilang edukasyon, doon nag-aaral sa Escolta, sa kalye, sa sidewalk, sa sidestreet, sa basement nag-a-assemble. Ang lamok doon kasing lalaki na ng tutubi*, the danger is real.

This is different from Pamantasan?

Separate. The Pamantasan is exclusively for the brighter students, honor students and the above-average. The City College is for the average students.

So you don't demand that they have an average of 80 or so...

Meron na rin, slowly we are now requiring that... We need a genuine campus for them, so here is this place [Mehan] deteriorating, *hindi ba perfect naman...*

Why was it deteriorating?

Because it's no longer a garden. It's a place where the Central Station of the LRT is. It's a place where nothing happens. When you allow a place to be just an open space... *Ang masakit nito binakuran pa nila*. Do

DISARMING/ p.D4

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1163 Series of 2001

"Bacchus August Greats"

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P 296*

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Mahler-Besse
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Fruity and generous
with a firm structure.
P 744*

Cheval Noir 1996
Fruity with hints of
blackcurrant and
blackberry.
75 cl. P 696*
3.75 cl. P 408*

La Perle Blanche
1996
Full-bodied with
exceptional ageing
potential.
P 436*

Vieux Moulin 1997
A well-rounded, supple
wine of consistently
fine quality.
P 392*

Vina Las Garzas
Colchagua Valley, Chile



Louis Jadot
Burgundy, France



Louis Jadot
Macon Blanc
Villages 1998
Easy-to-drink, fresh,
frank, dry
Chardonnay.
P 464*

Bourgogne Rouge
1997
Pure Pinot Noir flavor
and aroma. Round,
lush and soft. Filled
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exotic spices.
75 cl. P 552*
Bourgogne Rouge
1996
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Tesseron
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Fax: 841-0216

D2

SUNDAY
AUGUST 5, 2001 *Sunday* **LIFESTYLE**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

AIDS media deadline reset Aug. 7

WRITERS for television and those of children's short stories have until Aug. 7 to submit their entries to this year's AIDS Media Awards.

Eligible for the contest are TV news and features on HIV/AIDS aired between November 2000 and July 2001. The videotaped materials must be at least 15 minutes in length and must contain the name of the program on which it aired, the date and time of airing (with authenticated traffic log), and the name of the station.

The forms are available at the AIDS Society of the Philippines office at 6/F Rm 607, Dofia Felisa Syjuco Building, Remedios corner Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila.

Prizes include an all-expense paid trip to Melbourne, Australia for the 6th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific on Oct. 5-10 and pocket money worth \$500 for grand prizewinners, and a trip to Thailand for the second placers.

Call the ASP at 536-5694/5509 and 524-1261 to 69, local 144.

Petron holds exhibit

THE PETRON Gasul holds an exhibit dubbed "The Wedding and Home Show" until Aug. 11, at the Automatic Centre, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Furniture and basic appliances for newly marrieds are on exhibit. Being offered as a housewarming gift to visiting patrons is the Gasul-Kansai Package. Call 532-2222.

Mommy's Guide to Wound Protection

Is using an antiseptic cream really necessary?

The answer is, yes. Because it helps heal your child's wound twice faster than applying nothing at all.

Q What's in an antiseptic cream that makes it effective in making the healing process faster?
A An antiseptic cream, like Band-Aid® Brand Antiseptic Cream, contains clinically-proven antibacterial agents like cetrimide and chlorhexidine digluconate, which effectively kill germs that cause infection. Its cream base also helps provide a moisturizing environment necessary for the faster healing of your child's wounds.

Q Is it only recommended for deep wounds?
A No. Also for minor wounds, which your active children usually get. Always remember that scratches, scrapes, abrasions, burns,

insect bites and skin rashes could also get infected when treated improperly.

Q Can it also help relieve pain and swelling?
A Yes, it can help. Some antiseptic cream brands available in the market, like Band-Aid® Brand Antiseptic Cream, have special moisturizing formula, which cools and soothes the discomfort associated with the wound.

Q Does it cause irritation when applied on the wound?
A No. It contains no alcohol, so it does not sting nor cause any irritating feeling. It can also be absorbed by the wound quickly and effectively because it is water-based.

That also explains why it gives a cool, refreshing feeling when applied.

Q What is the best way of applying antiseptic cream?
A First, you have to clean the wound with soap and water. Next, disinfect the wound's surrounding area with cotton and isopropyl alcohol. Then, apply a small amount of antiseptic cream on the wound. Lastly, cover the affected area with a plastic strip.

New Band-Aid® Brand Antiseptic Cream, from the BAND-AID BRAND HOUSE OF THE WOUND.
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Avail of discounts and installment plans courtesy of BPI Credit Cards when you buy products from the many partners of Silicon Valley.

Daily prizes and surprises await all visitors and with every minimum purchase of P2,000.00, lucky customers get a chance to win in the Grand Raffle to be held at Silicon Valley ParkSquare, Makati City on August 17, 2001, 3:00 p.m.

Get all these and more as Silicon Valley lets you get real wild and ready to party with True Faith on the Grand Opening Night on August 11. Visit www.siliconvalley.com.ph for more exciting details. Other major credit cards accepted at all Silicon Valley outlets.

Don't miss out on the premier IT sale of the year from the country's leading IT retailer, Silicon Valley!

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This event is managed by base asia co. 8003817

Per DTI Permit No. AI-0419 Series of 2001

Xmas shopping in August

START your Christmas shopping in August.

Discovery Suites at the Ortigas Center presents "Sweetstakes Bazaar" with world-class products at bargain prices 10 a.m.- 8 p.m., Aug. 10, at the Discovery Center lobby.

Participating dealers include Sunshine, Mereliz,

Fashion Well, Rosa Zubiri/Margaux, M2C, Chloe, Premiums' Group, House of Accessories, Debbie Pajaro, Main Event and Enki. Items range from food to clothes to home décor to novelty items.

Discovery Suites is located at 25 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Call Maan or Anne at 635-2222 locals 3308 and 3101.

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GET the chance to see free Paris, the City of Lights and the world's fashion capital, by applying for a Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa.

All approved applications from now until Aug. 31 will get one raffle entry plus a welcome gift of a travel bag. For existing cardholders, every P1,500 single minimum purchase on Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa gets one raffle entry.

Prizes at stake include roundtrip tickets for two to Paris with four-days and three-nights hotel accommodations and \$1,000 pocket money. The grand prize is a trip to London for two with hotel accommodations for three nights and \$1,000 travel allowance.

Other prizes are a trip for two to Hong Kong with two nights hotel stay and \$500, five Samsonite luggage sets and 200 Hong Kong Tourism Board foldable bags.

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- (2) DeVinci Digital Organizer
Grand Draw:
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2nd Prize: (1) Notebook PC
3rd Prize: (1) Pioneer NS3VCD Player

RAFFLE PROMO MECHANICS:

- Write your Name, Address, Telephone Number, Signature and the name of the outlet/store on a piece of paper and place it inside a white legal-sized envelope, together with any of the following products.
- GATSBY:**
 - One (1) empty tube of any variant of either of the ff: WATER GLOSS, HAIR CREAM, SHAVING GEL or FACIAL WASH
 - One (1) jar cap of any variant of either of the ff: 75g, 130g, 150g, or 300g WATER GLOSS, HAIR CREAM or WAX
 - One (1) empty bottle of any variant of either of the ff: GEL WATER, SPRAY DEODORANT, SHOWER GEL, SHAVING FOAM or GEL, OIL CLEAR WATER OR SKIN FRESH WATER
 - Two (2) jar caps of any variant of either of the ff: 30g WATER GLOSS or HAIR CREAM, 50g or 100g PERFUMED TALC
 - Twelve (12) sachets of any variant of any combinations of: WATER GLOSS, HAIR CREAM
- MANDOM:**
 - One (1) empty tube of any variant of either of the ff: LONG KEEP GEL, 150g FACIAL COOL/SCRUB, CLAY WASH, or HONEY BLEND
 - One (1) bottle cap of any variant of either of the ff: LONG KEEP FOAM or SPRAY
 - Two (2) empty tubes of any variant of either of the ff: FACIAL COOL, FACIAL SCRUB
- PUCELLE:**
 - One (1) bottle cap of any variant of 175 ml FRESH COLOGNE
 - Two (2) bottle caps of any variant of either of the ff: 35ml or 75ml FRESH COLOGNE
 - One (1) empty bottle of any variant of either of the ff: 100ml or 125ml PERFUMED BODY LOTION or PERFUMED TALC
 - Two (2) empty bottles of any variant of either of the ff: 50ml perfumed lotion or PERFUMED TALC/DAN
 - Twelve (12) sachets: any variant of PERFUMED BODY LOTION
- At the back of the envelope, write the Raffle Promo title, GATSBY, MANDOM & PUCELLE GOOD LOOKIN' GREAT DRIVIN' and drop the sealed envelopes in drop boxes located in participating outlet nationwide.
- Each customer may join as many times as he/she can.
- There will be five (5) Regional Draws:
Northern & Central Luzon Regional Draw
C51 The City Mall, Dagupan City, Pangasinan
October 7, 2001, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Southern Luzon & Bicol Regional Draw
LCC Metro, Legazpi City, Albay
October 14, 2001, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Visayas Regional Draw
SM City Cebu, Cebu City
October 27, 2001, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Mindanao Regional Draw
Limbakal Center, Cagayan De Oro City
October 20, 2001, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- GMA Regional Draw
SM City Fairview, Quezon City
November 4, 2001, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Deadline of Submission of Entries for Regional Draws:
Northern & Central Luzon: October 03, 2001
Southern Luzon & Bicol Region: October 10, 2001
Visayas: October 18, 2001
Mindanao: October 23, 2001
GMA: November 02, 2001
- The Grand National Draw will be held on November 11, 2001 at SM City North Edes, Quezon City from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Deadline of submission of entries for the Grand National Draw will be on November 03, 2001.
- All draws shall be witnessed by a DTI representative.
- All non-winning entries during the Regional Draws will automatically included in the Grand Draw.
- A participant can only win once per draw. If a name wins more than once, he gets the prize with the higher value.
- Winners will be notified on where and how to claim their prizes via registered mail and names of winners will be posted in leading newspapers.
- Winners must present at least 2 valid IDs (school or company ID, driver's license, passport or birth certificate) when claiming their prizes.
- Regional winners may claim their prizes at the Regional Offices of ImagoQuest, GMA winners And Grand Prize winners may claim their prize at MANDOM PHILIPPINES CORPORATION, # 92 New York cor. Oxford Streets, Cebu, Quezon City.
- Prizes are not convertible to cash.
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- Employees of MANDOM PHILIPPINES CORPORATION, JOH PHILIPPINES their suppliers, dealers, advertisers, promotion agencies and participating outlets including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not qualified to join the promo.
- Promo period is from August 03 to November 03, 2001.

Per DTI - NCR Permit No. 1742, Series of 2001

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Disarming candor from the demolition mayor

(From page D1)

you know that they fenced it off?

Sino sila?

The past government, the past administration. It became a very unfriendly area. At least kung open madadaanan, e, ito binakuran for no reason. *Tapos ang daming mga pangalan doon sa bakod, yung mga gumawa ng bakod.* Can you imagine, tinayo yung bakod tapos nilagay yung mga pangalan doon sa bakod? (Laughter)

Who is supposed to maintain it, the city?

It should be the city because it's a city property. What I'm saying is it just got lost in the mesh of city life and it's right there in the Central Station area of the LRT. So *pagbaba mo ng LRT wala kang pupuntahan...* If you're going to cut short your jeepney ride, you have to walk across an area that is dark and dangerous. We've had holdups, snatching, rape, we've found bodies there dumped by whoever. So I decided to attend to this area now and at the same time solve the problem of the city

College by putting it in one corner of the area because it's an ideal place for the students to have their campus near the Central Station of the LRT, right beside Taft Avenue. Can you imagine the accessibility?

Hindi ba magiging ma-traffic?

No, hindi magiging ma-traffic. *Walang mga kotse ito, ito yung mga sumasakay ng LRT, sumasakay ng jeepney.*

How much will the City College cost?

P180 million.

How big a space would it occupy?

Mga one-fourth.

How big is the area that we are talking about?

The actual building is more than 2 hectares. The blueprint of the building is 4,000 sq m, so about 1/5. But it would be four floors so it will have about 16,000 sq m.

What else are you building there?

Just the college.

Where is the teachers' dormitory?

Ay, iba ito. The Mehan Garden is where the Central Station is, that was

the first intrusion. Why did they allow the LRT to occupy the Mehan Garden at one point in time?

The Metropolitan Theater is here and that will never be restored unless you provide a parking area here, because even if you restore this, eventually the problem will be parking, so what I decided to do is to construct the parking structure here. That's another issue. *Sabi nila, bakit ka magtatayo ng parking building?* Because the parking building connects to the Central Station, it can serve as a parking space for City Hall, and could rationalize the parking situation at Plaza Lawton. Plaza Lawton is in a mess. Every day we get criticized, "What are you doing about the FX, the buses..." It can be a parking area, a turnaround area for the FX vehicles and for the buses, and it is ideal, considering the availability of this area. This area is nothing but a deserted, asphalted area, which I am being criticized for—it's an asphalted road, deserted, dark, useless, and we are going to use it now for a parking building.

Is it pay parking for City Hall?

Pay parking, for all.

The city is going to run it?

No, it's DOT, we're not spending a single centavo. Somebody invested on this project. I don't know what prompted them. We opened it for bidding. We advertised it. They responded. They saw potential and they invested about P50 million in the project. The city will get to share with the net, but more importantly, they will pay for this. They will pay something like P90,000 a month to the city, rental, and they will share 10 percent of the net. Not bad. Most important is the provision of a public facility in this area. The Mehan Garden now, *sabi ko nga sa inyo, binakuran, nilagyan ng gate dito* so it became a very unfriendly area. It continued to deteriorate. There are no centuries-old trees there, there are two or four trees, but not centuries-old. *Siguro* as much as 10, 15-year-old trees. We will place the college in one corner. Why here? Because the students can now move around the park and use the Bonifacio Shrine also as a campus



PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

Uncommonly Known Facts About The Common Sipon

Sneezing, scratchy throat, runny nose - everyone knows the first signs of a cold, probably the most common illness known. Although the common cold is usually mild, with symptoms lasting one to two weeks, it is a leading cause of doctor visits and of school and job absenteeism.

Colds are most prevalent among children, and seem to be related to youngsters' relative lack of resistance to infection and to contacts with other children in day-care centers and schools. Children have about six to ten colds a year. In families with children in school, the number of colds per child can be as high as 12 a year.

Signs and Symptoms

Symptoms of the common cold usually begin two to three days after infection and often include nasal discharge, obstruction of nasal breathing, swelling of the sinus membranes, sneezing, sore throat, cough, and headache. Fever is usually slight but can climb to 102°F in infants and young children. Cold symptoms can last from two to 14 days, but two-thirds of people recover in a week. If symptoms occur often or last much longer than two weeks, they may be the result of an allergy rather than a cold.

The Viruses

Even in this period of medical breakthroughs and discoveries, one thing that still baffles us is the continuing occurrence of the common cold. Until now there is no known cure. Since there are about 200 different strains of virus that are capable of producing colds, no single vaccine can prevent its occurrence. What we only can do is relieve its symptoms.

Rhinoviruses (from the Greek *rhin*, meaning "nose") compose more than a third of the more than 200 viruses that cause the common cold. These agents grow best at temperatures of 33 degrees Celsius [about 91 degrees Fahrenheit (°F)], the temperature of the human nasal mucosa.

There are hundreds of different viruses and young children are meeting each one of them for the first time. Gradually they build up immunity and get fewer colds. Colds are caused by viruses and not bacteria, so antibiotics do not help.

How Colds Spread

Depending on the virus type, any or all of the following routes of transmission may be common:

- Touching infectious respiratory secretions on skin and on environmental surfaces and then touching the eyes or nose.
- Inhaling relatively large particles of respiratory secretions transported briefly in the air.
- Inhaling droplet nuclei: smaller infectious particles suspended in the air for long periods of time.

Studies suggest a person is most likely to transmit rhinoviruses in the second to fourth day of infection, when the amount of virus in nasal secretions is highest.

Does Cold Weather Cause A Cold?

Although many people are convinced that a cold results from exposure to cold weather, or from getting chilled or overheated, grantees of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) - in the United States - have found that these conditions have little or no effect on the development or severity of a cold.

The seasonal variation may relate to the opening of schools and to cold weather, which prompt people to spend more time indoors and increase the chances that viruses will spread from person to person. Cold weather may also make the nasal passages' lining drier and more vulnerable to viral infection.

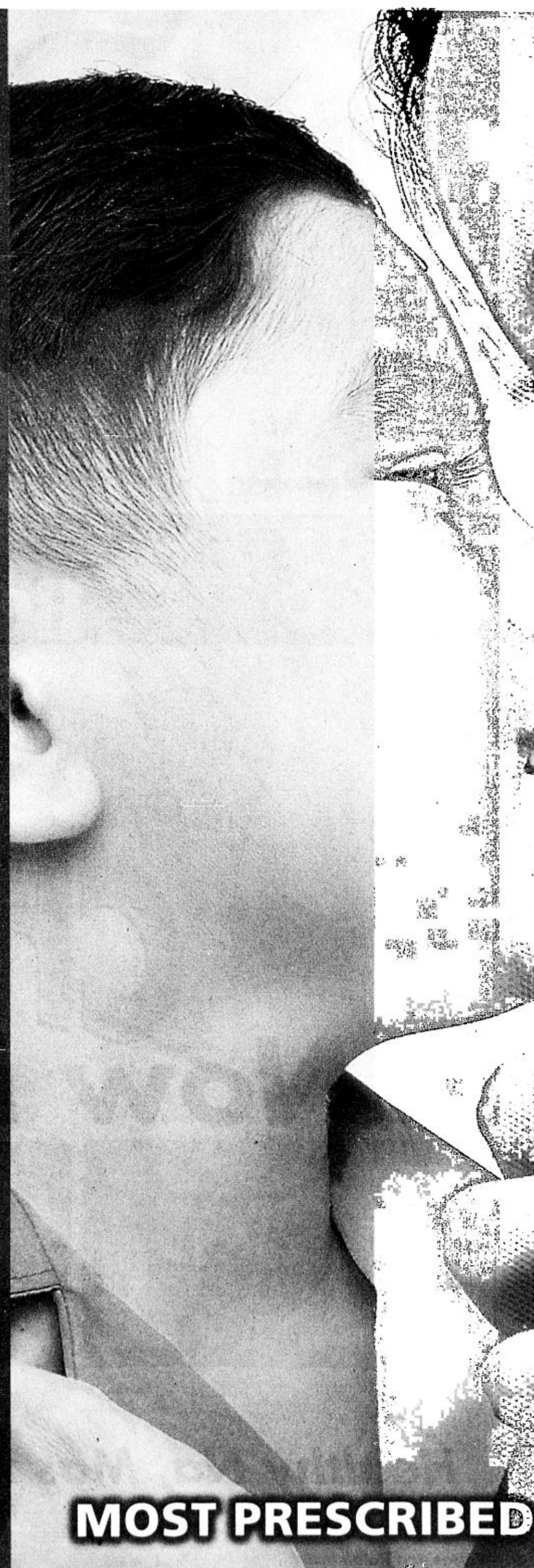
More than two million Filipinos suffer from cold, headache, and muscle pains each day during summer. TRIPLE that figure during the rainy season, as unpredictable shower storms bring up the number of those affected, especially among the very young and the very old.

How Cold Viruses Cause Disease

Viruses cause infection by overcoming the body's complex defense system. The body's first line of defense is mucus, produced by the membranes in the nose and throat. Mucus traps the material we inhale: pollen, dust, bacteria and viruses. When a virus penetrates the mucus and enters a cell, it commandeers the protein-making machinery to manufacture new viruses which, in turn, attack surrounding cells.

Colds occasionally can lead to secondary bacterial infections of the middle ear or sinuses, requiring treatment with antibiotics. High fever, significantly swollen glands, severe facial pain in the sinuses, and a cough that produces mucus may indicate a complication or more serious illness requiring a doctor's attention.

SIPON
can lead to
fever
cough
serious
infections



MOST PRESCRIBED

area. They can start moving around. Right now it's always empty. *Wala namang gamit ito, di naman pinupuntahan ng tao*, and yet the government spent so much money constructing this Bonifacio Monument.

Sino nagpagawa ng Bonifacio Monument?

The city. Five years ago, I feel that by injecting student life and movement into this area, it will somehow enhance the Bonifacio Shrine. It will enliven Mehan Garden. It can eventually restore the Metropolitan Theater because *magkakaroon ng buhay. Kung hindi natin gagamitan ng ganitong klaseng planning*, Metropolitan Theater is hopeless. It can never be restored, without this total life injection. After spending so many hundreds of millions, it again became one structure of decay. This college will immediately provide people, provide life, movement.

Now you're asking about the teachers' dorm, that's here in the Forest Park. Originally this was a Department of Education property, DECS National. *Binenta yan sa local DECS Manila, kami yun*, using teachers' fund, special education fund. That fund you cannot use for any other purpose except for schools, education, teachers' benefits, that's why it's

called special education fund. Sometime four years ago, *nakipag-sign ng MOA* ang city government to allow a group of women who called themselves Winners Foundation to plant trees and care for them temporarily. It was a very noble gesture. *Diito may centuries-old trees*. You'll see the rubber trees here as wide as this table, *yun talagang centuries-old trees*. *Pero ngayon may mga nakatanim na ipil-ipil...*

Do people go there?

No, again it's closed. We had a hard time securing it because *kung hindi babahayan yan*. You know how the street dwellers are, *nakakita lang ng espasyo sa ilalim ng tulay, ito pa?* So tempting. Sometimes they pass through the Pasig River. This is the Pasig River sa likod. *Minsan dumadaan sa likod, bigla na lang may mga nakatayo na doon. Tsaka ang takot ko dyan, ang nightmare ko always baka may mangyari sa gabi* that will shock everybody.

So that's where you'll build the dorm?

We want to use a portion of this to construct the offices of the teachers, city school offices.

Why don't you build the City College there since that's supposed to be

for education?

I can't. Primarily *sa teachers yan eh* more than the City College. City schools *ang may-ari nyan*. And the city college...

Is it not under the city schools?

No, it's not under the city schools... [It's under the] city government. *Malaki sigurong problema yan... Dahil may-roon talagang centuries-old trees*. But I think you can build statues there...

But isn't Mehan a heritage conservation site?

There is no declaration, no genuine...

And it has historical significance...

We are not denying that Mehan Garden is part of Manila or old Manila's landscape, but to say that it is a protected area that shouldn't be touched, something like the Luneta, the Paco Cemetery or the Marcelo Del Pilar residence or Rizal's or Fort Santiago, *hindi naman*. It's just that the Mehan Garden is part of Manila's landscape. Once upon a time it was a beautiful Luneta-looking open space... We want to approximate the development of this area into the genuine park worthy of being called a garden.

Have you sat down with the



When you're through with politics, what are you going to do?

My vision of myself after politics is to have a small coffeeshop where I can do my own marketing and my own cooking...

group?

Yes, yes. Somewhere along our argumentation, they kept on citing hundred other sites that we can use. They said the GSIS compound. Impossible! The GSIS is selling that area, we cannot afford that. They said, Ateneo de Manila campus in Intramuros—it's been lying in ruins all these years. *Sabi ko*, yes, if we can get that, that will be acceptable, it's even more prestigious, Ateneo where Rizal studied...

You work on that, we give you the park, you develop it. You give us the Ateneo campus, we'll build our college there, that's a fine swap. Everybody will end up winning and satisfied, but you work on it. But three weeks have passed, we're going on the fourth week now, nothing has developed after that offer.

Is Intramuros Administration under DOT?

Oo, DOT, so *sabi ko*, talk to Gordon. If he's willing to swap it with Mehan Garden, *kayo na ang bahala sa Mehan Garden, kami na ang bahala sa college*. I'm waiting for them.

Pero meron nang resolution...

It's a hiatus. It's temporary, but we cannot wait forever. If I don't get any

definite answer within the next week or so, I'd like to start my construction once again. If they don't give me an alternative place, I am constrained by my duties to restart my construction and finish it before the opening of school next year.

But you have started.

Piling *pa lang*. But if we don't restart soon, *mahuhihi naman kami sa timetable namin*. I'd tell them, "Do you have anything? *Wala pa rin? O, I'll go to work now and construct my building.*" *Giyyera na naman*. (Laughter) *Wala akong magagawa*. These are the pitfalls of public service.

Maybe that's where you thrive.

(Laughter)

I've been called names—barbarian, uncultured...

Culture torturer...

Sabi ng isang reporter sa police beat... "The only culture this guy has experienced is as a dancer. He must have danced too much *maglalatik...*" (Laughter) At least *natuto akong magsayaw, e, siya hanggang ngayon di marunong magsayaw*. (Laughter)

There is a mall near that Mehan Garden. What are the chances that the students wouldn't go malling?

DISARMING/p.D6

Tips on Treating the Common Sipon

Common colds can be easily transmitted but, because we consider the disease mild, we don't look at it as something serious until complications set in. The most commonly prescribed medicines to cure the symptoms of common colds are drugs containing phenylpropanolamine.

Each year, billions of doses of phenylpropanolamine are consumed in the United States and millions more are consumed by Filipinos in their fight against coughs. The popularity of phenylpropanolamine makes it one of the most commonly used non-prescription medications.

Single Component Formulation

Mothers should always exercise caution in getting faster relief for this common malady. That old adage, "less is more," might as well be their guide when looking for the right cold formulation for their children, i.e. a single component cold formulation that zeroes in on appropriate and immediate relief of their child's cold problem.

A single component means that the level of phenylpropanolamine ingredient in the formulation is specifically used to treat the cold symptoms alone.

Choose formulations which contain a single active ingredient versus one with two or more active ingredients. The reason being that a sole active ingredient fights the cause, relieves symptoms or strengthens the immune system, thus zeroing in on relief and immediate treatment of the cold.

As opposed to single-component formulations, multiple-component formulations are those drugs that have multiple ingredients used to address different symptoms of the cold - one ingredient is for treating dry cough, the other for allergy, while another would be for stuffy nose. This "shotgun approach" is not advisable as these cold symptoms do not all occur at the same time.

The World Health Organization - Control of Acute Respiratory Infections (WHO-CARI) supports the use of a single component decongestant.

Prevention: Still the Best Remedy

To prevent spreading a cold, a child should avoid contact with other people for the first two to four days of the cold. Unfortunately, someone just coming down with a cold is contagious even before he/she knows it is an infection.

Children with colds should wash their hands thoroughly and frequently, especially after blowing their nose. When coughing or sneezing they should cover their nose and mouth.

Handwashing is the simplest and most effective way to keep from getting rhinovirus colds. Not touching the nose or eyes is another. Individuals with colds should always sneeze or cough into a facial tissue, and promptly throw it away. If possible, one should avoid close, prolonged exposure to persons who have colds.

Because rhinoviruses can survive up to three hours outside the nasal passages on inanimate objects and skin, cleaning environmental surfaces with a virus-killing disinfectant might help prevent the spread of infection.

How do I treat my baby's cold?

Sometimes, babies who snifle can't breathe easily when feeding or asleep. Raising the head of the mattress slightly by putting a blanket underneath may help. You could try gently tickling your baby's nostrils - a sneeze might help clear your baby's nose.

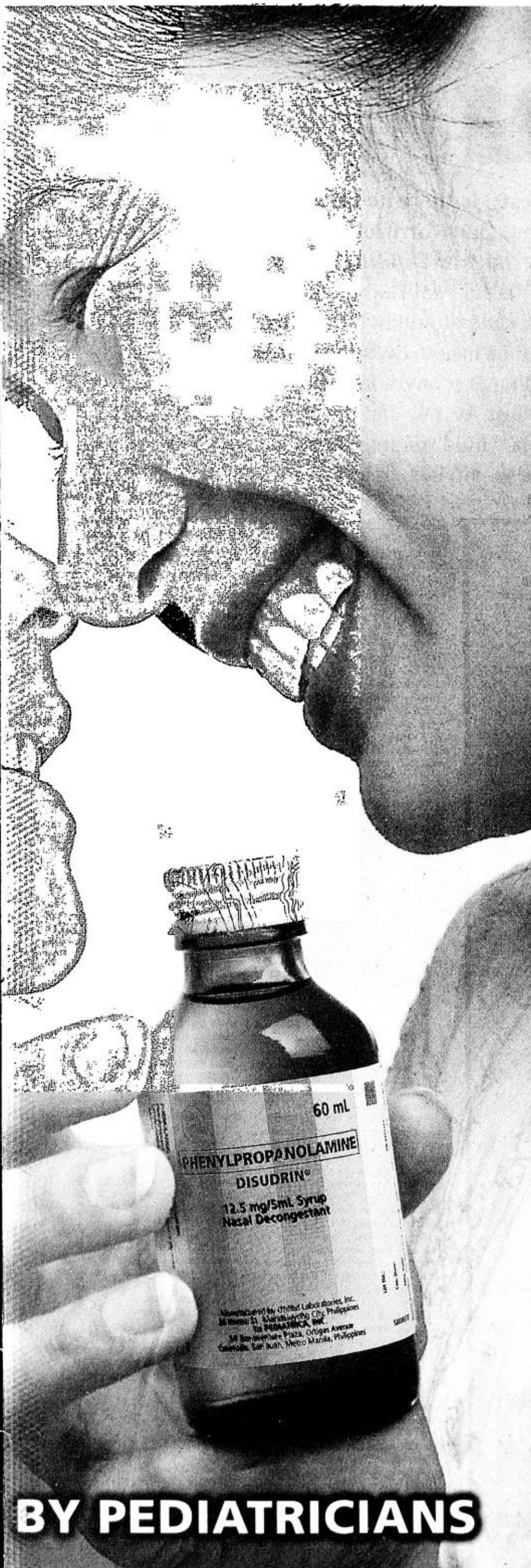
Unless you're sure, don't use anything for babies under 3 months without asking your doctor. Under normal circumstances, common cold goes without any medication as such.

When to see the Doctor:

- If the child has persistent fever lasting several days or over 101°F
- The child has difficulty in swallowing
- When the nasal discharge or coughing produces greenish or yellowish discharge
- If the child has shaking chills, chest pain or shortness of breath

List of Sources:

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- "Phenylpropanolamine Crisis: Firms find cure for drug scare in info campaign" By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. - May 4, 2001 - Philippine Daily Inquirer
- Special Report: "The Common Cold" By Shanes Mamanglu May 6 & 13, 2001 - Manila Bulletin
- World Health Organization Manual on Acute Respiratory Infections (WHO-ARI 90.5)



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If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.



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Disarming candor from the demolition mayor

(From page D5)

Malayu-layo ito, the mall is here. Well, right now we have Escolta, no campus, pagbaba mo Escolta na, talagang nagbubulakbol. At least, dito meroon silang campus. Kaya nga yung Ateneo campus is better, it's an ideal place.

What will happen to the PNB Building?

We'll sell it because we still owe. Meroon pa ring financial angle ito eh. When I took over the reins of the city, we were indebted by P450 million out of the PNB sale and we were paying skyhigh interest of 17 percent. Makukuba talaga ang city... We had been paying for about a year, and we were not even touching the principal. Puro interest lang, so we negotiated a loan package from another bank, the DBP, which was gracious enough to give us a loan at 11 percent. So from 17 bumaba to 11. I figured doon lamang sa savings namin doon sa 17-11, pag kinompute mo, makapagpapayatay na kami ng sarili naming college. That's where it started from. If we can borrow a little more, and build our college and sell the PNB and pay the original, bumaba na ang utang, bumaba pa ang interest. That's how it started—out of a problem, the problem of paying a high-interest loan.

Right now, what is in the PNB building?

It's still the City College. In fact, gusto ko na ngang ilagay sa auction ngayon para bumilis nga ang aksyon...

Do you have any control over the Intramuros Administration?

No, that's one of the anachronisms... To me the Intramuros and the Luneta Park are examples of conditions not belonging to the present times when we are promoting local autonomy, local development, local planning... How can we promote local development, local planning in the Intramuros areas when they are not under our control? When you ask me do we have any control over it, no.

Another service which should be corrected now to really answer the questions of peace and order is the police control distribution. I was quite disappointed when the President did not touch on it. I was hoping, I was praying sana makita na niya na the way to improve the peace and order condition all over the country is to decentralize the PNP. To return the police forces... to the local units. We must inject accountability to the police manning the beat. Ngayon ang pulis walang pakialam

sa tao, believe me. Hindi siya tagaroon, wala siyang loyalty to his mayor, to his city, to his government. He is somebody from Surigao who got assigned in Quezon City, what do you expect? The chief of police, somebody from Bulacan, who got his assignment because he is the favorite of the generals, will get assigned in Pasay, for example...

Manila used to be well known for its policemen, Manila's Finest.

Correct. During the golden years before martial law, before the police was centralized, the policemen would be able to determine who was the criminal by just going to the scene and asking a few questions, because they knew their city. And proof of the efficiency of our police, Los Angeles policemen, New York policemen, Japanese policemen, they came to Manila to study police work because we had a very efficient Manila police department here. Ang wala ngayon is commitment to the community, the accountability factor. Policemen are assigned to places they do not know. Any policeman worth his profession will admit there is nothing like coming from your own place and serving the beat in your community.

The police don't know their beat. They don't know the people. They don't know the players, and they don't care about their jobs.

Have you voiced this out before?

Ako periodically, pag may chance ako, I call the attention of the national leadership...

How do you respond to criticism that your renovation of Plaza Miranda is rather kitschy? That it doesn't go well with the Quiapo Church architecture?

On the contrary... Ang complaint nga ng mga tao noong araw the Quiapo Church seemed to be deshaaping from the character of the old Quiapo Church. Nawalan ng character. Because of what we did, it's now in the process of adjusting to what we have created around it. And the constructions around the plaza are also following suit. So how can you describe it in that manner? To me Plaza Miranda today genuinely looks like a plaza. It's one of those areas that we had been calling a plaza when in our time, in yours and my generation, it never looked like a plaza. This is the first time that we have made it look like one.

And the Luneta Hotel?

It's under sequestration. I hope they settle the legal issues so it gets developed. Whoever ends up owning it...

Who's running it now?



I understand it's the PCGG. Kaya ngayon nabubulok, it's one of those structures...

How about Jai Alai?

The Hall of Justice will go up there. Have you been forgiven for tearing down the Jai Alai? (Laughter)

I don't think so... Actually, the Mehan Garden is the continuation, I think... but again, in that instance, the Jai Alai facade had no place in the Hall of Justice. If there was a way of combining the two, I would have done so. If what we were building was a mall, a restaurant or a place of entertainment, retaining the facade would have been perfect. But no, we're building a Hall of Justice, how can you blend the two? You know, we started playing around with the tracing paper. We tried retaining the facade. I asked the architects, "Gumawa nga kayo ng ilang designs, ilagay lang natin yung facade ng Jai Alai. Let's see if it can work." After combining the two, it always looked like precisely as the Jai-

Alai. Siguro hindi naman tama na 'yung Hall of Justice where you'll get sentenced, where you'll get your justice or expect to get your justice, looks like the Jai Alai.

Iba naman ang memories of Jai Alai, especially the generation now. Ang memories mo ng Jai Alai kung nagdaan ka d'yan, are definitely negative except for those who celebrated their debut and their socialite days in the Skyroom. Iba 'yung kanilang memories. Pero maliit na maliit na sector lang 'yan. Ang pinakamaraming taong nakakaalala ng Jai Alai, yung Jai Alai na may game fixing, syndicates, crimes, ilang beses nagkaroon ng barilan d'yan, killing, gambling...

But why do you have to build the Hall of Justice there?

Why there? Again, there's no other place. We need that area to develop it because... wala na eh, pinabayaang din for about 15 years.

Has the city always owned it?

No, it was not city-owned, it's national government. I asked President Erap then for help because Manila is the only city that has no Hall of Justice. So sabi niya, sig, sa yo na yang Jai Alai, gamitin na niyong 'yan. So that's where we started and he gave us the initial P160 million to start it, and promised two years' budgetary support to complete the P700 million needed. We got stuck with P160 million. I understand GMA already assured the Supreme Court... and again it's not just my baby. It's the Supreme Court and the Department of Justice that are primarily expected by

anyone. The snatchers of Taft Avenue and the criminals of Manila would run into it and the police would be helpless. I would have preferred to retain it. As I've said, if my requirement was that of a mall, restaurant or anything for entertainment, then renovating and restoring the facade of the Jai Alai would have been exciting.

You could have sold it...

I challenged those who were complaining then, "You all come from very wealthy families, I know all of you, why don't you buy it?" I did offer them.

Why don't you buy it or swap some space for the Hall of Justice so we can save the building? But I am faced with a requirement today and you are telling me to save the building, how will I do that? And the President was telling me, "Here's the money, here's the land, build your Hall of Justice." Sasabihin ko, "Sir, teka muna, gusto ko i-retain itong building." E, baka sinabi ni Erap sa akin, "O, sig, akin na muna yang pera, akin na muna yang lupa, ibibigay ko sa iba 'yan." Under our conditions, I would like to indulge more in preservation of structures and more conservation of sites. Slowly we'll get there. It's something that we can't immediately impose. We just have to provide and improvise. Sometimes we had to sacrifice. We had to sacrifice the Jai Alai Building. It also was not perfectly enjoyable for me to be destroying it, but it's something that had to be done at that particular point.

How about the Manila Jockey Club?

It's owned by the Manila Jockey Club. It's within the boundaries of Manila, but it's always a privately owned Jockey Club with a franchise...

I understand they're considering transforming it into something else, but they have not come to the city for official sanction or approval.

And Ermita and Malate? Is there a possibility for the bars to reopen?

Malate and Ermita are developing now under our vision of a district with very pleasant, wholesome entertainment. If you have been to Malate, you will agree with me. It's not the old Ermita honky-tonks that you see but very wholesome places for dining.

The girly bars won't be back?

No. In fact, one attempted. Yung Intimacy. I closed them the moment we were able to determine they had girls. In fact, foreign women. And no less than the Immigration Department Commissioner Andrea Domingo coordinated with us. They caught 14 foreigners working as hostesses.

So what about the plans to make Ermita a pedestrian street with a market?

Yes, all of these are now being worked out. We're working primarily with the establishment owners. They're the best—Larry Cruz, Ricky Gutierrez, very creative...

We see a lot of historical structures in the vicinity of Globo de Oro. They seem to be neglected with no government protection.

Sa Globo de Oro, Quiapo? You're right. That district is full of history, eh talagang napabayaan. We would want to devote more time and resources in its upkeep but we are limited by whatever we have. Ang daming lugar doon na gustong i-develop.

Quinta Market... yung mga markets doon...

We just started. I've great plans for Quezon Boulevard. Very shortly I'll present it to the media. We're just preparing the plans. I have very high hopes that we will be able to renew that area with the help of the private sector. We'll just prepare the plan, we'll support it with legislation.

Mayor Lim was known for ridding Manila of crime. Now you have this thing for renovation. Do you think this is rooted in your being an architecture student?

Greatly, yes, and also because of my great concern for my city. I saw Manila when it was flourishing and prosperous. I saw Manila when it was glittering with neon signs—Rizal Avenue in better condition than Nathan Road at one point. I also strolled around Escolta during those years of affluence and progress and development where the shops of Alonso's, Hickock's were all there, the shopping center of the whole country, the Fifth Avenue of the Philippines. I feel that we should restore this and we can, if we deliberately put our limited resources and our political will in restoring discipline, order and a development plan. So siguro I'm also lucky that I took up architecture and I spent years in a cultural foundation like the Bayanihan which gave me all of these orientation.

I'm glad you said that former Mayor Lim was known... Iba yung projection sa reality eh. I'd like to assure you all that the peace and order conditions in Manila have never been better. The record shows we have...

Less crime now? Less salvaging also?

We have less crimes now than before, less kidnappings, less robberies, less bank holdups. In Manila, ha?

When was the last time you talked to Mayor Lim?

When we debated. (Laughs) He got so angry, accusing me of everything and I decided...

Was he a good mayor?

That's a very unfair question. I think it's for the people to decide on that... The statistics shows... Sabi nga ng mga tao bakit noong nakaraan walang mga improvement, ngayon marami...

The issue against you is not so much that you are replacing historic structures. The issue against you is

DISARMING/p.D7

RAD Teachers Association of the Philippines



The Royal Academy of Dance Registered Teachers Association of the Philippines was founded in January 1999 in an effort to pool up limited resources of RAD Teachers here in the Philippines. Starting with only ten (10) registered teachers, the list now has grown to 15 in 2 years. Its past projects include the presentation of the full length GISELLE restaged by Nonoy Froilan at the CCP-Main Theater in May, 2000. The best senior students among the various RAD Schools were selected to perform this well-loved romantic ballet. This year, the association is preparing for Nutcracker Ballet to be restaged by Noordin Jumalon, Director of CCP Dance School. This will be shown in December 2001 at the CCP Main Theater. Other activities were the participation in the workshop conducted by the Junior Conservatoire de Paris and Masterclass conducted by Tom Mayr and Anna Villadolid, Principal Dancer of Bavarian National Ballet (Munich). In September, there will be a Teachers Seminar to be conducted by RAD representative from London in coordination with British Council. Those interested in the work of the RAD may contact British Council (Diane Sioson - 9141011) or Malen Claravall, President of the Association.

Goal of the RAD Teachers Association of the Philippines

To develop classical dancers of high standards through professional teaching in the art of classical ballet and other forms of dance.

OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To develop a venue for the continuous development, training and enhancement of teaching skills in a highly professional manner.
- ✓ To provide Workshops and Seminars whether in-house or outside (locally or internationally) not only in the RAD syllabus but other syllabi as well.
- ✓ To increase the number of RAD teachers nationwide through the continuous development of students with potential of becoming teachers.
- ✓ To present selected students yearly in RAD examination and various local and International Dance Festivals.

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Students of the Conservatoire de Paris with Royal Academy of Dance Students in a huddle after taking a mini-workshop last June 7, 2001 held at STEPS Studio. Those interested in joining RAD Classes or become Certified RAD Teachers may call British Council (Diane Sioson - 9141011) or Malen Claravall, President of the Association.



In all honesty, is there no tinge of regret on your part for what you did to the Jai Alai Building?

No, because the Jai Alai Building really was in a total state of nothingness. Two-hundred families inside, even the police wouldn't enter it

Disarming candor from the demolition mayor

(From page D6)

that basic services, such as traffic, are poor. Of course, this is the part of the MMDA...

We're doing our best to support it. You would see now an entirely new set of traffic lights that are on being constructed on our main avenues. That's city, supported by the city. *Yung nakikita nyo ngayong mga bagong traffic lights...* first in the Philippines. The new auxiliary forces that are being deployed, Manila 'yan, paid for by the city.

How about sidewalks? Sidewalks are fast disappearing in Manila.

We have started liberating the sidewalks. You go to the University Belt now and you can see how the students are enjoying the sidewalks once again. That's one of my main concerns now. Let me assure you, the liberation of sidewalks is my commitment.

We're going around... you cannot change this overnight. This is a fault in society, in governance, that has been aggravated for the past 35 years, so I cannot promise you instant solutions in one week, two weeks, one month, one year... I intend to finish this in one term.

How about basketball courts?

That's another problem. *Nawala lahat ng playgrounds ng Manila.* At the time when Manila had only 50,000 people, we had 50,000 playgrounds. I used to play baseball and softball in my own neighborhood. We had diamonds all over the place. We had that football field in Malate. *Eh pinanigay ng gobyerno yan, ginawang mall, binigay doon sa malakas, binigay sa isang crony...* nawala ang mga playgrounds. Where do you expect the children to play? *Gumawa ng ilang sports center, hindi naman tama ang design. Tingnan mo ang ginawa sa Del Pan Sports Complex.* We renovated it, not spending too much but we changed it into a real, practical, workable sports house. Now people are playing there, children are playing there. They're using it now. We're building more and more playgrounds to answer that question. We're now improving on the Dapitan Sports Complex.

I'm also renovating the swimming pools because they were constructed as if *magkakaron tayo palagi ng diving competition.* What we need are wading pools. *Pinagagawa ko 'yan, mababaw ngayon.* Children now can swim and use them more practically.

What happened to the award of Cecile Licad?

We will give it one of these...

Talaga? (laughter)

How about sidewalks?

Sidewalks are fast disappearing in Manila.

We have started liberating the sidewalks. You go to the University Belt now and you can see how the students are enjoying the sidewalks once again.

That's one of my main concerns now

No really, because we make it a point that all awardees must be available. *Ang sama naman kasi ng itsura ng mga awards night na nakita natin,* "The award goes to so and so..." Where is he? Absent.

Na-inform na daw siya na hindi na sa kanya mapupunta 'yung award?

No, no, no. We were informed that she would not be available, so the committee said next year we will recognize her. *Hindi naman nawala yung award, eh. Yung recognition nandoon pa rin. Ako nga ang No. 1 fan ni Cecile, eh.* You don't know this, *pero* I discovered her as a 5-year-old child prodigy. When I first met Cecile she was a 5-year-old, very plump, chubby child who couldn't even reach the pedals, but she was playing Rachmaninoff. *Akala ko nakakita ako ng multo, eh.* You will get shocked when you see a 5-year-old playing classical music with the fingers barely reaching the keys and the feet barely able to step on the pedals but the feeling, the soul of the music is right there. *Fan ako ni Cecile.* I'll be the first one to complain *kapag hindi namim ni-recognize yan* as a Manilaña. Buencamino family *yan, eh. Manilaña yan.* But the point is, because of the decision of the committee, all awardees will have to be asked whether they will be present, whether they'll be available. And I think it's fair.

But Cecile has been informed? The family?

I'm sure they were. *Kaya lang pumutok sa peryodiko yung conflict* when there is none. *Siguro yun lamang kanyang manager nag-react. Sabi tuloy ng mga tao sa akin, mukhang very unpopular ka sa INQUIRER, ah.* (Laughter)

One of our photographers suffered burns during the burning of video karera...

That was not my idea, *ha?* I would just like to explain that.

Isa pa 'yun, idea mo daw 'yun? (Laughter)

Inquirer lang nagsabi non. Ayoko nga ng mga sunog-sunog na yan, eh, especially that particular case. *Sabi ko, tama na yang sunog-sunog. Nung nakaraan pinason ko, eh.* To me that's the safer way to destroy illegal [videos]... *pison!* Grudgingly; I went to the sunog-sunog.

Muntik din ako. At the precise moment I was driving the photographers out *kasi nakita ko may nagsindi doon sa likod ng sulo.* I was really scared *na baka may maaksidente.* I was driving the photographers out because they were busy taking photos *sisindihan na. Tapos biglang [nagtiyab] mabilis eh. Nasunog yung pantalon ko. Mabuti na lang...* *bilib ako sa fabric na yon eh. Ito yata yon eh.* Alam mo, presence of mind. *Nasusunog yung pantalon ko hindi ako na-rattle, nag-aapoy eh.* Some of our boys... *talagang na-rattle.*

Sino ang namimili ng mga shirts mo?

Ako.

Why floral?

I feel at ease, *eh.* It provides me with a better outlook for the day. There's a study on this, I'm not kidding. There's a place in Japan, a small town in Japan, where everybody decided they'll wear colorful shirts at work and at the local city hall. And they found themselves more productive wearing colorful and floral shirts. *Eh di lalo na sa Pilipinas, ang int-init dito sa atin tapos magsu-suit ka o kaya naka-barong ka, naka-synthetic ano ka, naka-polyester material ka, mahirap...*

You know our culture, we are a very colorful



people. *Yung mga Filipinos sa bukid noong araw naka-red pants, naka-checked na yellow, green, red. Kastila lang naman ang nagturo sa atin ng mga black, gray...* *Amerikano ganon din...*

What do you do with your money?

The way you say it, *para bang marami akong pera.* (Laughter) I would want to develop a beach house one of these days. I love the beach.

Where do you invest?

Wala akong investment. Timuturuan ko lang yong mga anak ko na mag-negosyo.

You don't have a business of your own? When you're through with politics, what are you going to do?

My vision of myself after politics is to have a small coffeshop where I can do my own marketing and my own cooking... where you can have specials of the day, like fresh *besugo* from Bohol... No matter how well you cook, if your marketing is not correct, when your condiments are not right, you will not be able to attain the kind of taste you're looking for. So the secret is to buy it yourself, buy the right fish, the right meat, right vegetables...

So, do you go to the market?

I did up to the time when I was vice mayor. But now, once in awhile I still go to the market. And they get shocked when I go to the market, *"Si Mayor, si...*

Mayor." (Laughter)

Do the vendors fall all over themselves giving you the freshest...

And *siguro* the most expensive (Laughter), *"Heto si Mayor, tagain natin."* (Laughter)

Which market? What is the best market in Metro Manila?

Dalawa, Cartimar and Sese for seafood.

What do you do for fitness?

I do a lot of walking, at least *mga 40 minutes* a day.

When do you walk?

In the morning. That's why I wake up at 5, by 5:20 I'm out of the house, in my rubber shoes and in my shorts. Brisk walking, with my wife.

With bodyguards?

As much as possible *walang* bodyguards except for some critical times when you are warned so *medyo nag-iingat...*

Do you have death threats now? Is it because of the Mehan Garden? (Laughter)

No, no. (Laughter)

Politics?

Yeah, politics.

Kasi disente naman ang mga kalaban mo sa Mehan Garden, di ba?

Oo, hysterical lang. (Laughter)

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TITLE
(Operator Logo)

To join the Smart Cinema Club, key in **JOIN CINEMA** and send to 239. You will receive instructions for the next registration steps.

To invite friends to join, key in **INVITE** <your friends' numbers> and send to 239. You can invite up to 3 friends at one time.

To receive more information on different commands, key in **HELP** <command> and send to 239.

MOVIE TRIVIA GAMES:

To get movie trivia questions, key in **PLAY MT** and send it to 239.

To answer the trivia question, key in the number of your answer and send to 239.



AFACE
(Picture Message)



HELMET
(Operator Logo)



AEYES
(Picture Message)



SLOGAN
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*Available on selected Nokia handsets only.

Promo Mechanics:

1. All Smart Gold and Buddy subscribers registered with the Smart Cinema Club on or before August 7 are eligible to win 2 tickets to the advance screening of Planet of the Apes on August 12, 2001, 8:00 p.m., at the Robinsons Galleria MovieWorld.
2. All Smart Money cardholders can also win free tickets by simply using their card to make a minimum purchase of P100.00 from Aug. 1 - 7, 2001.
3. Draw date will be on August 8, 2001. Winners will be notified by text message and a call to their registered mobile number.

4. Winners can claim their tickets at the DDB Phils. office, 9/F Legaspi Suites, Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City starting August 8, 2001. Or at the Smart Cinema Club Booth at the Robinsons Galleria Cinema on August 12, 2001.
5. Promo is for the Greater Metro Manila area only.

See flyers for details.

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All text messages sent will be charged P2.50 each. Logos, graphics, and screensavers are P12.00 each. For more info, call your Smart Customer Care Hotline at 888-1111 or *888 on your cellphone.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Family celebrates weddings in RP, US



EUNICE Picache Enriquez and Miguel Vergara Malabuyo

THE TWO daughters of Feliciano "Jun" Enriquez and the former Lina Picache kept their altar dates in separate ceremonies in the Philippines and the United States.

Daughter Ethel Lina "Apple" came home from the US to marry fiancé Emil Achacoso Liwanag, a former classmate at the University of the Philippines, in simple but elegant ceremonies at the Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan. Reception followed at the Diamante Piazza, Renaissance Tower, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The principal sponsors included Mr. and Ms. Rizalito Olarte, Mr. and Ms. Emmanuel Angeles, Marietta P. Martinez, Tess S. Aquino, Erlinda A. Ching, Digna D. Santos, Edmundo Castaneda, Marcelino Abesamis, Gerard Estrella and Benjamin J. Mendoza.

Matron of honor was Elizabeth Enriquez Tarronas, while best man was Rhichie T. Brown. **FAMILY/p.E2**



ETHEL Lina Picache Enriquez and Emil Achacoso Liwanag

ACET REVIEW Ateneo College Entrance Test Review (Aug. 11 or 12 up to Sept. 8 or 9)

High School Entrance Test Review (weekends of Aug. & Sept.)

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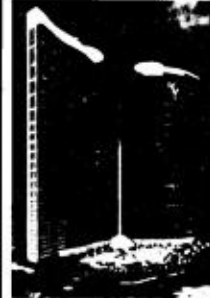


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Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0416, Series of 2001.



Family celebrates weddings in RP, US

(From page E1)

Bridesmaids were Rica E. de la Cruz, Cindy A. Liwanag and Marivic B. Achacoso. Groomsmen were Marco B. Abesamis, Gino T. Castaneda and Angelo J. Serrano. Secondary sponsors were Carlo E. Bagui and Suzanne L. Datuin (candle); Erwin P. Enriquez and Myra C. Pineda (veil); and Fra A. Liwanag and Genevieve L. Regino (cord). Ring bearer was Ori Miguel E. Liwanag; coin and Bible bearers were Kim and Kurt C. Liwanag. Flower girls were Shae-Shae E. Tarronas, Martina Cano Enriquez and Chesca P. Picache.

Guests were mainly close relatives and friends, especially from the UP Upsilon Sigma Phi Fraternity and

Sigma Delta Phi Sorority. The couple's fraternity and sorority provided the cake's motif. The couple intends to make their home in the United States.

Eunice Picache Enriquez married Miguel Vergara Malabuyo on May 12 at St. Philip Neri Church, Pennsylvania, USA, followed by a reception at the Double Tree Guest Suite, also in Pennsylvania.

Miguel is the son of Danilo and Deedee Malabuyo. The principal sponsors were Felicidad A. Santos, Teresa Syjuco-Golangco, Teresita A. Dimagiba, Dr. Marcelito C. Custodio, Dr. Florante R. Relosa and Dr. Victor C. Rivera.

Matron of honor was Emelyn Enriquez Angeles and best man was Jerome Patrick A. Castillo.

Bridesmaids were Christine S. Aurelio, Patricia Ann G. Gonzales and Ma. Cecilia A. Roman. Groomsmen were Kennard E. Lane III, Michael G. Grisi and Jayaveera Kodali. Secondary sponsors were Jeanette M. Zagala and Mark F. Malabuyo (candle), Jocelyn Anne G. Reyes and Paolo V. Malabuyo (veil) and Shae Enriquez Tarronas, Martina Cano Enriquez, Carina Enriquez Elido, Joanna Enriquez Angeles, Angelica Enriquez Angeles, Ysabel Malabuyo Hagan and Margarita Malabuyo Hagan. Francisco Malabuyo Hagan was ring bearer; Ori Miguel Enriquez Liwanag, coin bearer; and Jacob Enriquez Angeles, Bible bearer.

The couple is now residing in Manhattan, New York.



EUNICE and Miguel with their parents (from left) Felicisimo and Lina Enriquez and Deedee and Danilo Malabuyo



EUNICE and Miguel at the reception

ETHEL and Emil with their principal sponsors

In praise of some government offices

AT TIMES like these when what we get in the mail are mostly gripes about public service, the following letters of praise are a breath of fresh air.

Benjie Angeles, FTI vice president for marketing and development, is all praises for the personnel at the Land Transportation Regulation Office, Makati District. He says long before the new computerization drive launched by the Administration, LTO Makati was well ahead with its system. It is one of the few government offices we can be truly proud of because of its efficient and speedy service. For example, applications for licenses or car registration are processed within 30 minutes without the aid of fixers or influence peddlers.

"I didn't expect the chief himself to assist me when I lost my license. Moreover, the premises are clean and there are signs all over the place telling people what to do and where to go," says Angeles.

We would like to add that signs giving directions on how to get to the LTO are posted around Makati. If you need any assistance with license or car registration matters in the city, call 897-5918 or 895-8678.

Here's another positive feedback for a government office. Joel Nunez of Edward Keller sent us this note: "My first experience filing a complaint before the mediation board for consumers at the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) was a pleasant one. The hearing officer, Lyn Carbonell, conducted everything in a very professional manner. It is indeed worthwhile filing complaints with the DTI because you get fast result."

Aris Suravilla, president of Adevero Homeowners Association, gives credit to the prompt response of the Manila Water Service branch office in Mandaluyong. "They responded right away when we requested them to check the possibility of extending water service to our street. We appreciate the effort and the time spent by the following officials when they made an ocular inspection of our place and reported their findings to us: Rolly Pulido, senior manager for the technical staff, and Manny Ramos, customer service officer for San Juan and Mandaluyong districts."

Our praises to the technical staff of Cyberspace for assisting us in the reconfiguration of our Internet program. For their patience, we thank Jun Evangelista and Joe Barrera.

Discriminatory warranty
WEEKS ago, we wrote about Nokia cellular phones that local service companies refused to repair because the units were bought abroad and the warranty coverage was specific to certain countries that did not include the Philippines.

"Consumer discrimination" was how a DTI Industry official described such warranty. Minerva R. Fajardo bought a popular US refrigerator brand from a representative company in the Philippines. She expected the product's global warranty to apply in the Philippines. However, she was disappointed to find out that products sold in the Philippines



Marietta Velasco Giron

were covered by a different set of guaranty provisions.

Ms Fajardo asked, "Why doesn't the company stick to its global guaranty standard wherever its refrigerator is sold? Guaranties should be the same anywhere in the world. Why give a lesser guaranty in the Philippine market? Is it because it is a poor country? That to me is discrimination against Filipino consumers..." Ms Fajardo is an official of the DTI-Trade Industry Information Center.

On senior citizens' complaints

A FEW months back, we wrote about business establishments that violated the senior citizens' privileges. We're sorry it took us a long time to acknowledge the following comments sent to us by concerned consumers.

Dr. Ben Alimurung of islandmd@skynet.net suggested that we publish provisions of the senior citizens law. He wrote: "I surmise this law is inadequately understood, poorly known and, perhaps, even severely abused in one way or another by business establishments. In effect, they disrespect and deprive our senior citizens of a unique, rightfully deserved privilege, which truly is a recognition of their earlier contributions—of service, of work and of taxes paid during their gainful years."

From Amel Binalla of nelbin2000@yahoo.com: "The first thing I noticed was your biased stand for the senior citizens. Although I agree that they deserve discounts from business establishments, the latter may have reasons they don't readily give them our place and reported their findings to us: Rolly Pulido, senior manager for the technical staff, and Manny Ramos, customer service officer for San Juan and Mandaluyong districts."

Connie Angeles of Bayanihan Village, Cainta wrote: "Why don't drugstores sell the exact volume of medicine specified in a doctor's prescription order in preparation for my three-month visit to the US, I had a physical checkup for which my doctor prescribed anti-stress tablets for my daily medication. However, the drugstores were only willing to sell to me seven tablets! I am 86 years old. I walk with a cane, and they expect me to go every day to the drugstore at Ever shopping mall to buy seven tablets each time until I can complete the dose! They make a mockery of doctors' duly-signed prescription orders, not to mention that they violate the senior citizens act."

E-mail the author at mariettatgiron@hotmail.com.

WIN A STAR WARS SPECIAL EDITIONS HOLIDAY TO AUSTRALIA

3 tour packages and 30 STAR WARS Collectible Packs to be won



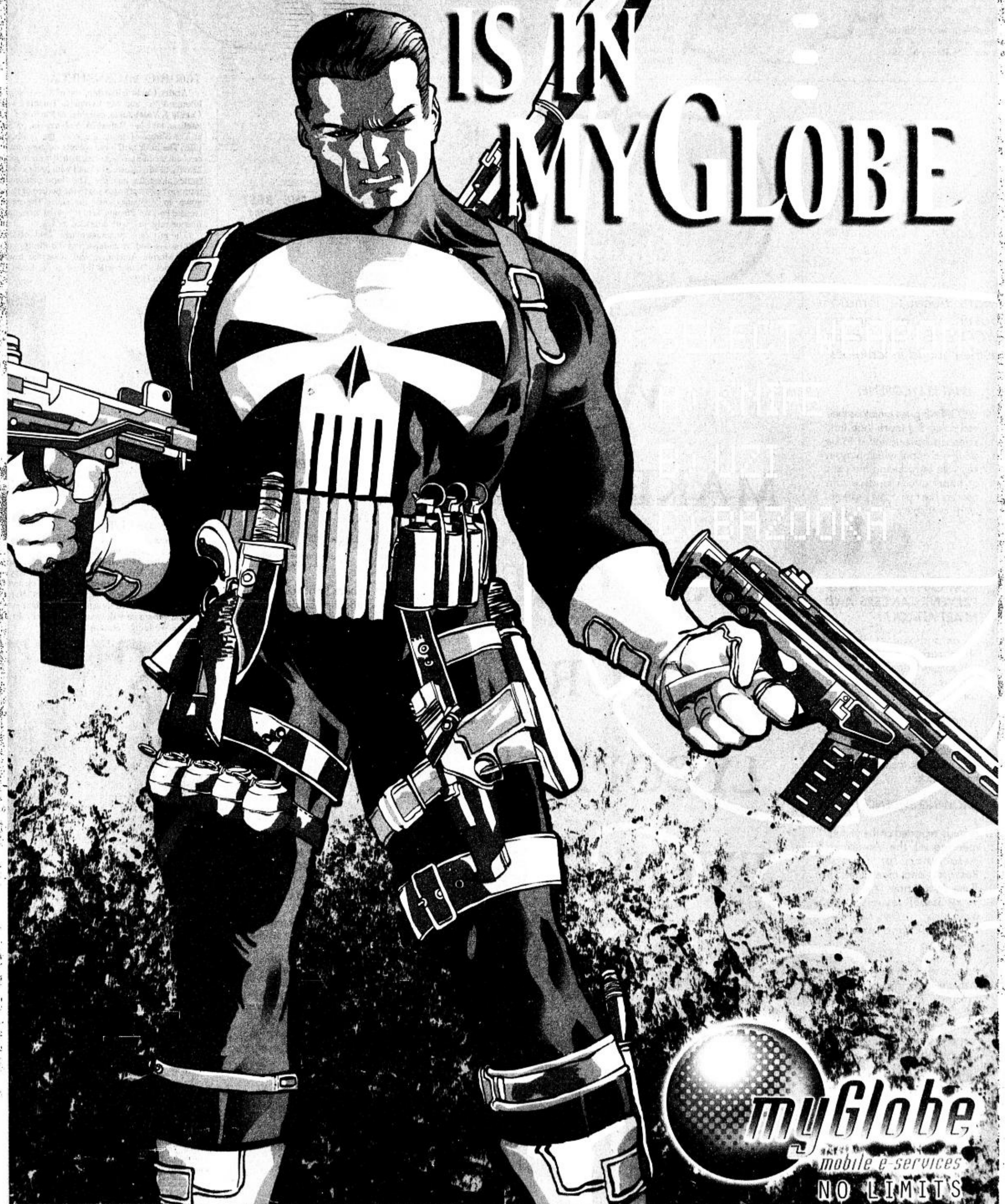
- FIRST PRIZE:** Three (3) tour packages with return trip to Sydney for two (2) including an exclusive tour of Fox Studios Australia, airport transfers in Sydney and hotel accommodation, city tour and all meals.
- SECOND PRIZE:** 30 exclusive STAR WARS Collectible Packs including a light saber, one mask and one photo frame. Gift items cannot be exchanged for alternate versions.
- TO ENTER:** Fill in the entry form and mail to: CTAC, 2903 D West Tower, PSE Building, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center 1605 Pasig City
- DEADLINE:** All entries must be mailed and received by August 31, 2001

Question: Circle the premiere dates of the following Star Wars movies:

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. Star Wars: A New Hope | Aug 3 | Aug 4 | Aug 5 |
| 2. The Empire Strikes Back | Aug 10 | Aug 11 | Aug 12 |
| 3. Return Of The Jedi | Aug 17 | Aug 18 | Aug 19 |
| 4. The Phantom Menace | Aug 24 | Aug 25 | Aug 26 |

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CABRIZOS-BAYLON

Rowena T. Baylon, daughter of Remedios vda. de Baylon, will wed Erwin J. Cabrizos, son of Mr. and Ms Ernesto F. Cabrizos, on Aug. 12 at the Grand Ballroom, Maria Cristina Hotel, Iligan City.

The bride will wear a Sheila S. Rabago creation while the groom's suit is by Renee M. Salud.



CERRADO-TORRE

Imie Torre, daughter of Benito and Anicia Torre, exchanged wedding vows with Sandrei Cerrado, son of Romulo and Melinda Cerrado, on June 30 at the Parish of Nuestra Señora de Gracia, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City.

The bride wore an off-shoulder gown in ivory duchess satin with princess-cut bodice, accented by pearls, rhinestones and cut-beads designed by Rudie Baylon.



Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings, engagements and debuts. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least two weeks before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

NAGAÑO-SALAZAR

Roel A. Nagaño, son of Elsa A. Nagaño and the late Rolando B. Nagaño of San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija, tied the knot with Maria Agnes C. Salazar, daughter of Francisco V. and Exaltacion C. Salazar of Las Pinas City, on May 26 at the Manila Metropolitan Cathedral, Intramuros. Reception was held at the Heritage Ballroom, Heritage Hotel Manila.

The bride wore a strapless gown made of duchess satin embellished with rows of rhinestones and glass beads made by the groom's aunt, Aida Castro.



TORIBIO-VALENZUELA

Andre Carlo I. Toribio, son of Senior Supt. Carlomagno V. and Ms Elvira I. Toribio, will wed Cecille J. Valenzuela, daughter of Placida J. Valenzuela and the late Rafael M. Valenzuela, on Sept. 15 at The Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life. The bride will wear a white duchess satin princess-cut wedding gown embellished with sugar beads, heavily beaded flowerettes and with touches of rhinestones along the hemline. The floral patterns of the intricate beadwork also adorn the bodice of the bridal gown and cascade down the skirt. The ensemble, created by Tito Franco, is highlighted by a super-fine illusion tulle veil with a beaded crown.

The groom, a merchant marine deck officer who will be assisted by cadets from the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy, will wear the traditional white dock. Dinner will follow at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel.



REYES DEBUT

Vernice Joy S. Reyes, daughter of lawyer Victor C. Reyes and engineer Janette Sevilla Reyes, will celebrate her 18th birthday on Aug. 18 at the Don Soriano Hall, Villa Caceres Hotel, Naga City.

Vernice is a second year B.S. Nutrition and Dietetics student of Colegio de Santa Isabel, Naga City. She will be escorted by Angel James Dee.

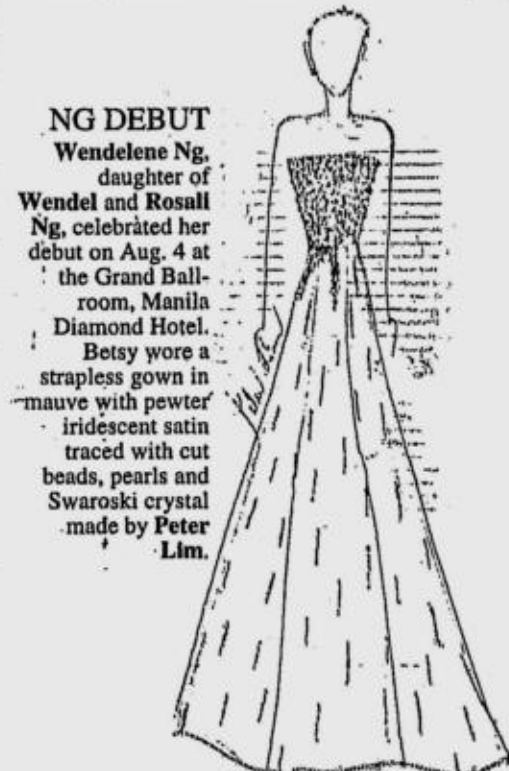
The debutante will wear a creation of Jo Tuy of Encore Wedding Specialist.



APOSTOL DEBUT

Ivy Calonge Apostol, daughter of engineer and Ms Romeo M. Apostol, celebrated her 18th birthday at the Grand Ballroom of the Manila Diamond Hotel on July 22. She is currently enrolled at the De La Salle University Manila taking up Bachelor of Science in Commerce Major in Management of Financial Institutions. She was escorted by Androuel Arguelles.

The debutante wore Roni de Jesus' creations.



NG DEBUT

Wendelene Ng, daughter of Wendel and Rosali Ng, celebrated her debut on Aug. 4 at the Grand Ballroom, Manila Diamond Hotel.

Betsy wore a strapless gown in mauve with pewter iridescent satin traced with cut beads, pearls and Swarovski crystal made by Peter Lim.



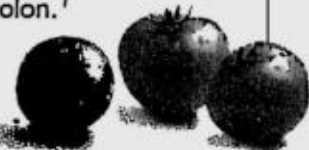
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Did you know that serving tomato-based dishes regularly may contribute to you and your family's good health?

That's because tomato-based dishes contain LYCOPENE -- an amazing nutrient found in tomatoes.

Q: WHAT IS LYCOPENE?

A: LYCOPENE gives tomatoes their red color. But more than this, scientists have found it to be an anti-oxidant which plays a key role in reducing the risks of heart attack and certain cancers like that of the prostate, lungs and colon.¹



Q: HOW CAN LYCOPENE HELP PREVENT CANCERS AND HEART ATTACK?

A: As an anti-oxidant, it fights "free radicals" - harmful substances that cause cellular changes that can lead to cancer.

LYCOPENE also blocks the formation of bad cholesterol in the blood which clogs arteries and may set the stage for a heart attack.

GROWING EVIDENCE

A study reported at the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research and mentioned in Time Magazine (April 26, 1999 issue) reveals more amazing news about LYCOPENE and prostate cancer.

Researchers from the Karmanos Institute in Detroit presented findings suggesting that LYCOPENE may not only prevent prostate cancer but may also shrink human prostate tumors and make cancer less aggressive.²

Q: WHAT ARE THE BEST SOURCES OF LYCOPENE?



A: Higher levels of LYCOPENE are found in heat-processed tomato products like DEL MONTE tomato sauces and ketchups. This is because heat breaks down the tomato's cell walls, allowing more LYCOPENE to be released for the body to absorb.

HOW LYCOPENE IS RELEASED



Heat processing releases lycopene



Lycopene is made available for the body

Prof. Lenore Kohlmeier of the Department of Epidemiology of the University of North Carolina also revealed that there is five times more LYCOPENE in tomato sauce than the equivalent amount of fresh tomatoes.



WHY REGULAR INTAKE OF LYCOPENE IS IMPORTANT

To build our LYCOPENE reserves, nutritionists recommend at least one serving of tomato-based dishes everyday.

DEL MONTE makes sure you get your LYCOPENE by offering a complete line of tomato-based products -- from sauces to ketchups! So make sure you have some in your pantry everyday.



Iba talaga mag-alaga ang Del Monte.



¹ Heart attack and cancer are caused by many factors. A low-fat, high fiber diet rich in fruits and vegetables plays a major part in lowering the risks of these diseases.
² Kucuk, O., et al. lycopene supplementation in men with localized prostate cancer (PCa) modulates grade and volume of prostatic intraepithelial neoplasia (PIN) and tumor, level of serum PSA and biomarkers of cell growth, differentiation and apoptosis. Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research, Philadelphia, April 1999.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE



Is the Honorable Goma really against addiction?

COMPILED BY CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO

RICHARD Gomez should shut up. Why is he leading noisy rallies at the Supreme Court and the Comelec in protest of a high court ruling barring his group Movement Against Drugs (MAD), real-estate chambers and traditional political parties from joining the party list of the House of Representatives? The Supreme Court has merely imposed order and sanity on chaos. It has merely ordered that the spirit and letter of the law be followed: that marginalized sectors that otherwise do not have the resources of political parties and other big-interest groups be represented in Congress through the party-list system.

Clearly, MAD is not a marginalized sector. It is a semi-government group that has long enjoyed public sponsorship and support. If it had wanted representa-

tion in Congress, then it should have supported candidates advocating a strong arm against trafficking of illegal drugs. Perhaps it should have asked Gomez to run for congressman.

Gomez said that because of the Supreme Court ruling, drug victims and those fighting drug trafficking have been deprived of a voice in Congress. Who is he fooling? Many lawmakers won their positions on a strong anti-drug platform. Whether or not they are serious, that's another matter.

Moreover, Gomez himself is the wrong person to take on the cause of drug victims because he has endorsed some forms of addiction. Remember he sold his soul to the evil tobacco empire when he became a highly paid cigarette model. In case he didn't know, nicotine is a substance that can be abused.

Taipan's obsession

A WELL-KNOWN taipan has been reported to fre-

quent a hospital for examinations. Not of the physical kind, mind you, but more like laboratory tests to check the levels of his cholesterol, blood sugar, triglycerides and the like. You might think, what's so unusual about that?

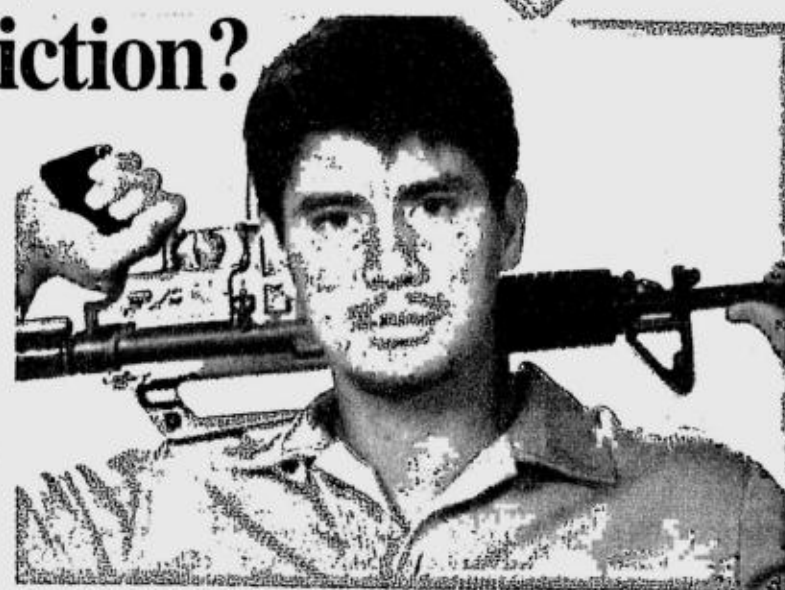
Well, unless you have an existing medical condition, having your blood examined on a monthly basis borders on obsessive-compulsive behavior.

Once upon a time, the same taipan had been obsessed with having his sperm count tested. Could it be because the taipan is head of an empire that peddles products not exactly beneficial to one's health? Better safe than sorry, is what he would probably say.

Pirate in the Cabinet

A "FEELING-POG" Cabinet member said all the wrong things at a meeting with record executives and

IS THE/ p.F6



RICHARD GOMEZ: Ready to take on the Supreme Court

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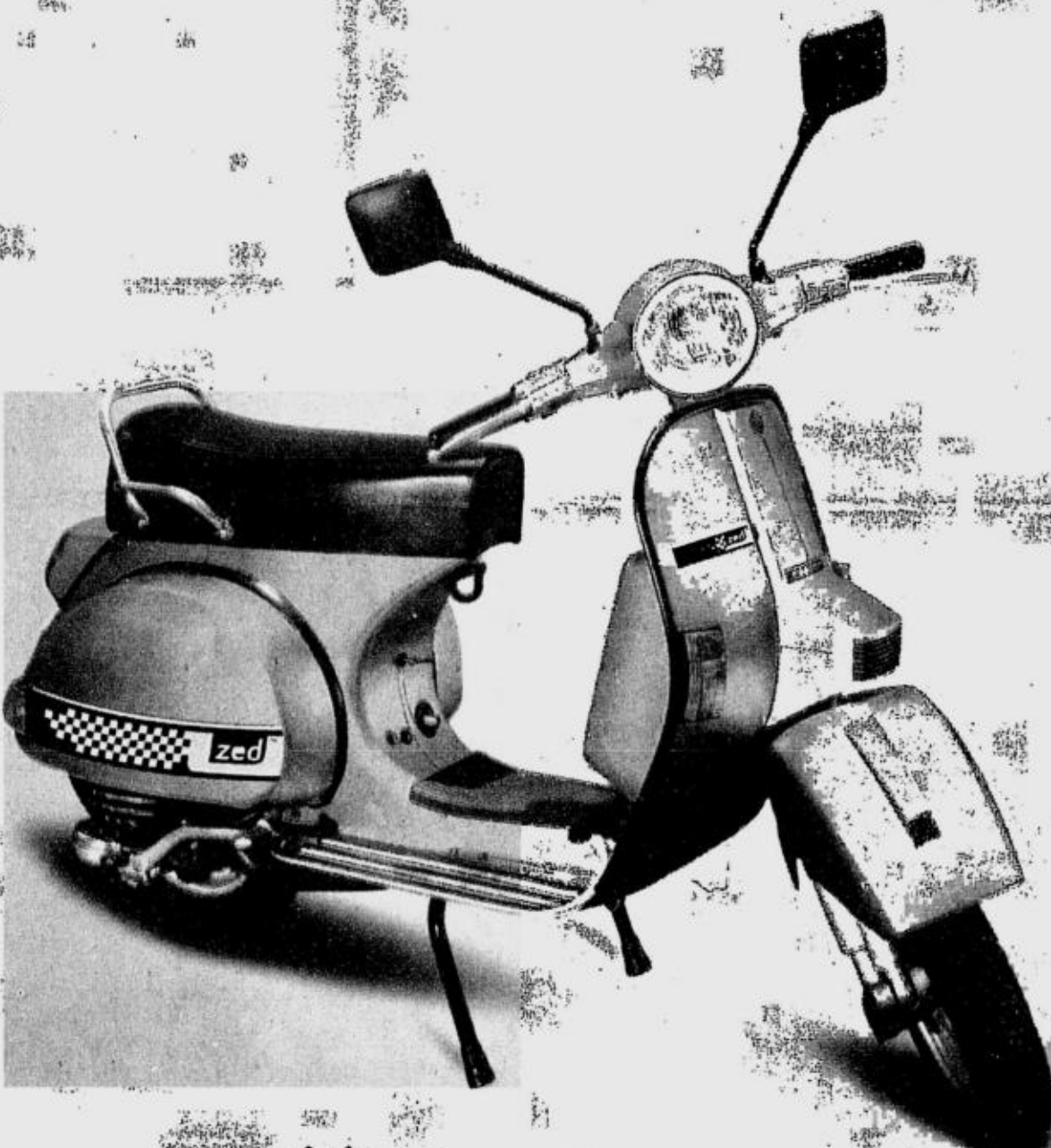
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Promo until October 7, 2001.



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(10) Sony Cyber-shot DSC F505V



(10) Sony Cyber-shot DSC F505V

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- Once a subscriber registers, he can download or send as many logos, ring tones, picture messages, or icons as he wishes. Every successful transaction entitles you to one (1) virtual raffle entry. There can only be one registered name per cellular phone number. In the event that another person registers using the same number, the original name registered will be the one recognized. However, one person can register several mobile numbers at one time.
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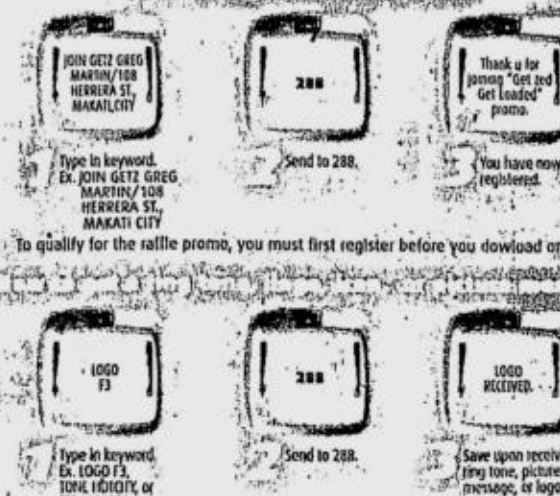
- All raffle draws will take place at 10:00 a.m., at the Sonera zed Office, 27th Floor, Tower II, Enterprise Building, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

The draw schedule and the promotional period covered are as follows:

Week	Prize Period	Draw Date
Week 1	July 29 - August 5, 2001	August 6, 2001
Week 2	August 6 - 12, 2001	August 13, 2001
Week 3	August 13 - 19, 2001	August 20, 2001
Week 4	August 20 - 26, 2001	August 27, 2001
Week 5 / 1st Monthly	August 27 - September 2, 2001	September 3, 2001
Week 6	September 3 - 9, 2001	September 10, 2001
Week 7	September 10 - 16, 2001	September 17, 2001
Week 8	September 17 - 23, 2001	September 24, 2001
Week 9	September 24 - 30, 2001	October 1, 2001
Week 10 / 2nd Monthly	October 1 - 7, 2001	October 8, 2001

Prizes at stake are as follows:	For the 2 Monthly Grand Draws
For the 1st Monthly Draw:	(1) Sony Cyber-shot DSC F505V
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(5) Sony Cyber-shot DSC F505V	(5) Sony Cyber-shot DSC F505V
(6) Sony Cyber-shot DSC F505V	(6) Sony Cyber-shot DSC F505V
(7) Sony Cyber-shot DSC F505V	(7) Sony Cyber-shot DSC F505V
(8) Sony Cyber-shot DSC F505V	(8) Sony Cyber-shot DSC F505V
(9) Sony Cyber-shot DSC F505V	(9) Sony Cyber-shot DSC F505V
(10) Sony Cyber-shot DSC F505V	(10) Sony Cyber-shot DSC F505V

- Taxes for all prizes will be shouldered by Sonera zed.
- A participant can only win once. Should a winner's name be drawn more than once, he gets the prize of higher value and another entry will be generated in its place.
- All winners of the weekly and grand draw will be informed initially via a text message and registered mail. From the date of notification, winners have until 60 days to claim their prize. Prizes not claimed within the given period will be forfeited in favor of Sonera zed with prior approval from DTI.
- To claim your prize, please bring your cellular phone with the congratulatory text message, your letter of notification, and a valid ID to Ace Saatchi & Saatchi, 10th Floor, Feliza Building, 108 Herrera Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. For Vis-Min provincial winners, prizes will be shipped to them and winners will be informed on details of how to claim their prize.
- Employees of Smart Communications, Sonera zed, Ace Saatchi & Saatchi, as well as non-revenue Smart special subscribers, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.



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Per DTI-PCH Permit No. 0847, Series of 2001.

Watch out for the first weekly draw on August 6, 2001.

Japan preserves her rich historical heritage

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROWENA C. BURGOS

At first glance, Japan seems thoroughly modern but there's a soft, gentle side to her that opens her soul to those who seek it

COOL mist from the nearby mountain enveloped the stately Itsukushima Shrine in Miyajima Island as buses filled with students and tourists pulled up one summer afternoon. A mystic aura hangs over Itsukushima Shrine and the many other shrines, temples and castles that dot Japan's verdant countryside.

First built in the latter half of the 6th century, Itsukushima Shrine was remodeled by Taira-no-Kiyomori in 1168, displaying the artistic beauty of the Shinden style of architecture. Designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) as a World Cultural Heritage in 1996, the shrine features the 200-meter O-Torii (Grand Gate).

Taken together, Japan's famous structures constitute a magnificent architectural and ecclesiastical heritage. Their austere facades and majestic interiors have made them a central part of the Japanese consciousness, contributing to a sense of nationhood.

One of the world's leading industrial and trading nations and the first Asian country to develop a technologically advanced industrial economy, Japan today is a society composed of traditions and customs that are both thousands of years old and as new as the microchips in a personal computer.

In our one-week educational tour of the Land of the Rising Sun, sponsored by Wakunaga of America and GNC Phils., we discovered its wonders: High mountains and vast meadows, short and swift rivers, forested slopes, narrow coastal plains, unspoiled villages and a remarkable architectural tradition that reached its peak in dozens of temples, shrines and castles. The country's history is full of legends as rich and amazing as its edifices.

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

The damage done by the atomic bomb was so catastrophic that the conviction that humanity cannot coexist with nuclear weapons was deeply embedded in the minds of the people of Hiroshima. Inspired by an unwavering hope for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the achievement of lasting world peace, the city began its journey to peace, encouraging the rest of the world to embrace its cause.

Thus, the Peace Memorial Park, which features the Peace Memorial Museum, the Memorial Cenotaph and the Flame of Peace, was built to symbolize Hiroshima's plea for everlasting peace.

Nijo Castle

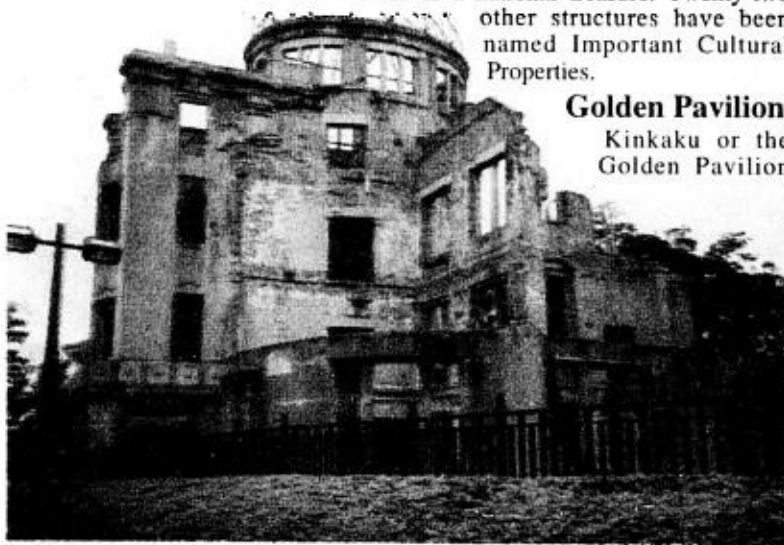
Originally built in 1603 as the official Kyoto residence of the first Tokugawa Shogun Ieyasu, it was completed in 1626 by the third Shogun Iemitsu, who transferred some structures from Fushimi Castle, built in the Momoyama Period (1573-1614).

When Yoshinobu, the 15th Tokugawa Shogun, returned sovereignty to the Emperor in 1867, the castle was given to the Imperial family. In 1884, it was renamed Nijo Detached Palace. It was renamed Nijo Castle in 1939 after it was donated to the City of Kyoto, and it has been opened to the public since then.

Designated a historic relic, the Castle's Ninomaru Palace is a national treasure. Twenty-two other structures have been named Important Cultural Properties.

Golden Pavilion

Kinkaku or the Golden Pavilion



A-BOMB Dome in Hiroshima



THE 400-YEAR-OLD Nijo Castle in Kyoto



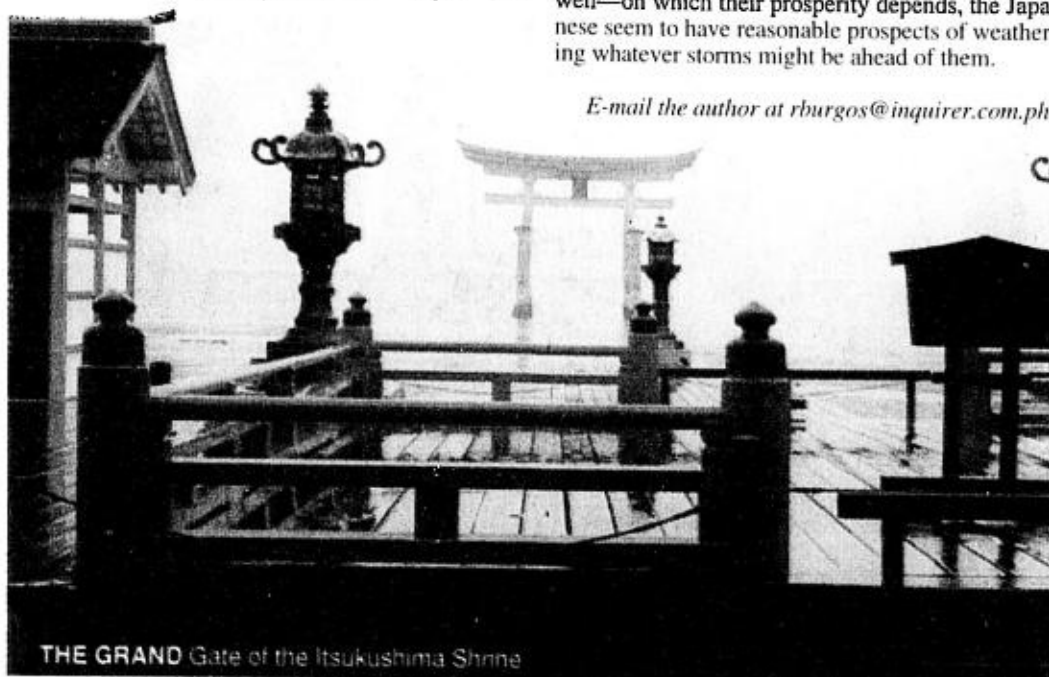
THE GOLDEN Pavilion and the pond Kyoto-ji in Kyoto



ITSUKUSHIMA Shrine in Miyajima Island



CENOTAPH for the A-bomb victims in Hiroshima



THE GRAND Gate of the Itsukushima Shrine

was the villa of Kintsune Saionji in 1220. Yoshimitsu, the third Shogun of Ashikaga, abdicated the throne in 1394. After three years, he began to build the Kinkaku, which was made into a Zen temple after his death.

Named a World Cultural Heritage in 1994, the temple's second and third floors are covered with gold leaf on Japanese lacquer. The roof, on which a Chinese phoenix is perched, is thatched with shingles.

As significant in some respects as those in the political and economic spheres had been the changes that had taken place in the cultural and daily life of the Japanese. Many of these changes may have been of superficial significance because, fundamentally, the Japanese's national traits remain unchanged.

Westernization, so conspicuous since the end of World War II, might prove no more lasting than the worship of Western ideas and customs that erupted after the Meiji restoration. But westernization is no longer alien to the younger generation of postwar Japan and the Emperor's injunction to combine the civilizations of East and West makes sense to them.

So long as nothing happens to upset the policy of close and friendly relations with the West—and with the countries of South and Southeast Asia as well—on which their prosperity depends, the Japanese seem to have reasonable prospects of weathering whatever storms might be ahead of them.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



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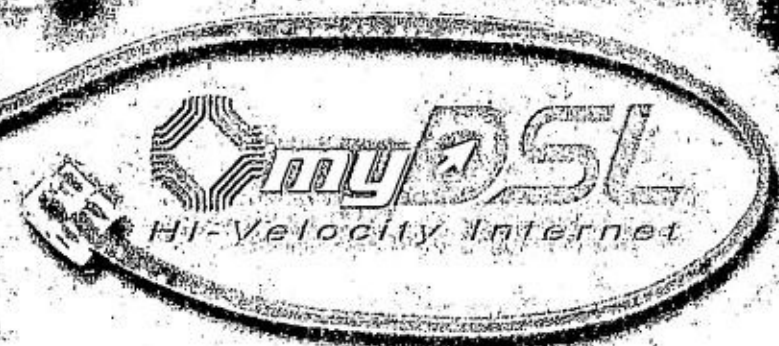
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TRAVEL

ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO, Editor

Summer in New York

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY NORMA JAPITANA

IT was on 59th Street near the Plaza Hotel that I first saw Dustin Hoffman. He was carrying a painting and rushing out of his burning apartment building.

"Need any help?" a man asked. Dustin just looked at him sadly and sprinted away. This was before "Rain Man" and he was 20 years younger.

The week after that I went to the shooting of "Cruising" in Central Park starring Al Pacino. My friend Gene Davis (a brother of Brad Davis) had a role in it, and his wife Penny called to tell me about it.

The area was cordoned off for the shooting and security was tight. I was looking for Gene from behind a black man with his arms akimbo when someone screamed through the noise calling my name.

"It's me, Gene!" said someone in a dress. I must have looked incredulous, because he raised his skirt and said: "It's me, I'm a man!"

And Gene pulled me through the cordon as Al Pacino joined in the laughter.

But that was 20 years ago.

Aside from the skyscrapers, it is still the people that make New York the center of the universe. New Yorkers are known to be blasé, but they are still brimming with heart.

Having lived in New York in different decades, I was tempted to compare then and now—only to discover that the changes are actually in myself. For Manhattan has hardly changed apart from its being more expensive now. (At the apartment building on 318W and 51st where I used to live, a studio could be had for \$125 a week. Now the lowest rent is \$149 a day.)

Donald Trump is back with a vengeance after a financial debacle, proving true once more that if you can make it in New York you can make it anywhere.

During my visit the Trump Towers was having a live morning broadcast, and two bands were playing. One could watch on the monitors as Trump was being interviewed. But no one was interested aside from this international *usisero*!

Indeed, big shots hardly get their due in Manhattan. Even a visit by the US President is considered an imposition, what with traffic being snarled for New Yorkers on their way to shop at Bloomingdale's or Macy's.

Marriott

My group—composed of Cesar Montano and his wife Sunshine, Rommel, the Hotdog, David Pomeranz and Cesar Aguas—had come to do a show for the Filipino community at Hunter College right in Manhattan. We were billeted at the Marriott, and my 10th-floor room had a view of the Battery Park and the Hudson River. With the lights on at night it was an awesome sight.

New York's rivers still have their cruise ships, barges and tugs, and are part of the green belt around Manhattan. The Hudson River Park stretches along the Hudson, from Battery Park City to 125th Street.

One morning I got to stroll in the park with Pearl Milton, who was visiting New York from Seattle and was also staying at the Marriott. She asked me how to get to the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art, and I told her.

"You know the city so well," she said. "Have you lived here long?"

I showed her the map of Manhattan I was carrying with me. Then I told her that I am from Manila.

"But you speak like a New Yorker," she said, missing my Visayan accent.

I studied at New York University but I spoke English long before then, I told her. Then I went on to explain education in the universities in Manila.

"Manila? That's the place where there was a revolution. My son wants to go there but my husband won't let him go," she said.

"Our revolutions are like fiestas," I said, trying to make light of the situation. "In fact, if you come to visit with your son we can stage a revolution just for you."

The Marriott is walking distance from the World Trade Center. Shopping is adventurous there and on the lower floors. Nine West had a sale, and shoes that earlier cost \$59 was going for \$25. I grabbed a pair, of course.

Also, you can take the subway or the path trains from the World Trade Center to any point in New York. The World Trade Center has 110 floors but the observation deck is on 107th. I paid \$7.50 as an adult to get to the deck. It was a fast elevator, and my eardrums sang as we reached the 100th level.



IT'S Strawberry Fields forever for the beloved Beatle.

THE 10TH-FLOOR room has this view of skyscrapers and the Hudson River.

What were the things they said of the Big Apple? That it's a city of right angles and tough, damaged people. That its name is just right because nothing ever gets old there



PEDESTRIANS walk past John Lennon's Dakota.

The guard, Mario Nunes, formerly from Brazil, smiled warmly as the kids covered their ears. "Just chew some gum and it will go away," he said.

On the deck was a telescope through which you can observe the city below. There's an angle where you can get your picture taken with the big city behind you. On one wall are pictures of the skyline and what well-known people say about New York:

- "The city of right angles and tough damaged people."
- "There is no room for amateurs even in crossing the street."
- "The city has the right name—New York. Nothing ever gets old around here."

Central Park

Imagine 843 acres of pathways, lakes, ponds and open meadows in the center of this exciting metropolis. The best way to get around Central Park is through a walking tour, which takes a lot of endurance. Watch out for the rollerbladers, skaters and cyclists bearing down on human traffic just as far as cars, which are not allowed inside the park.

For your walk, start at the entrance on 59th Street near the Dakota building where John Lennon used to live. In memory of the beloved Beatle, the park set up Strawberry Fields, a lush, 2-and-a-half-acre spread that you can reach through a winding pathway from the statue of Daniel Webster. Strawberry Fields is sometimes known as the "international garden of peace."

It being summer the last time I was there, Central Park was alive with entertainment. Lake Belvedere still featured the popular "Shakespeare at the Park." Tickets are free, and you have to join a long line starting at 1 p.m. to catch the 8 p.m. show.

When I was living in Manhattan I was lucky to watch Richard Dreyfuss as Richard III and to eavesdrop on his conversation after the show.

The New York Times on Sunday weighs around two kilos and from my walkup on 58th Street I would take it to Central Park for a whole day of reading.

There was a bench facing the Central Park West apartment where my special friend used to live. We had agreed not to meet on Sundays but I would watch him take his autistic son to the park. There was a hotdog man at the corner who became my friend. He had the best hotdogs in town.

On my last visit I discovered that the bench was still there but that the hotdog man had moved. My special friend, who used to run a worldwide conglom-

erate, died five years ago.

There was a heat wave last July, with the temperature rising to 95 degrees. But it was cool when we visited the park one afternoon. In fact, at some point a cool breeze wafted through the branches of the trees near the Central Park Wildlife, where the zoo is home to about 100 species.

For the romantically inclined nothing beats the hansom cab ride around the park. The hansom is the horse-drawn carriage that you see in those romantic Hollywood movies. You can get one near the Plaza Hotel on 59th Street at \$34 a ride. When you're in New York you'll have to forget the exchange rate (\$2 to \$1 when I was there). Otherwise, shopping will be such a pain.

Broadway

More than a decade ago Ernie Maceda taught me how to get discounted Broadway tickets by lining up somewhere on 42nd Street. That was when Ernie was in exile in Manhattan and his wife, "Manay" Ichu Maceda, sent a letter and I think some money. He took me to the Hilton for lunch and later to that spot where I could line up for tickets.

I saw practically all the Broadway hits through this process, and I shall forever be grateful to Ernie for it. Imagine getting tickets costing \$60 or \$45 for half, or even less, the price.

You just had to be patient. It was a long line and you would not know what tickets were available for that

evening until you get to the front. It was just tough luck if the available tickets were for shows you had already seen.

For the less adventurous there was telemarketing. You called a number and they found a ticket for you on that same night. It was not as cheap, though. I got a \$45 ticket on the same night I called, and the charges added up to \$53. It was not even a good seat.

On the first day of July Cesar Montano's relatives treated us to lunch at Carmine in midtown Manhattan. By then we were on our own as it was the day after the show at Hunter College.

Cesar decided to continue staying at his suite at the Marriott. But I decided to move to the West Park Hotel on 59th Street near Central Park for less than what we were paying at Marriott. I got to know this hotel through the Internet and I did not really know what it looked like, but the area appealed to me.

Hector Magno took me to the West Park Hotel before we joined Cesar and his relatives at Carmine. Hector has been a New Yorker for years, and just like a New Yorker he refused to join us for lunch because he was not previously invited. But he left me all his phone numbers, as well as his daughter's. To me, that's very Filipino.

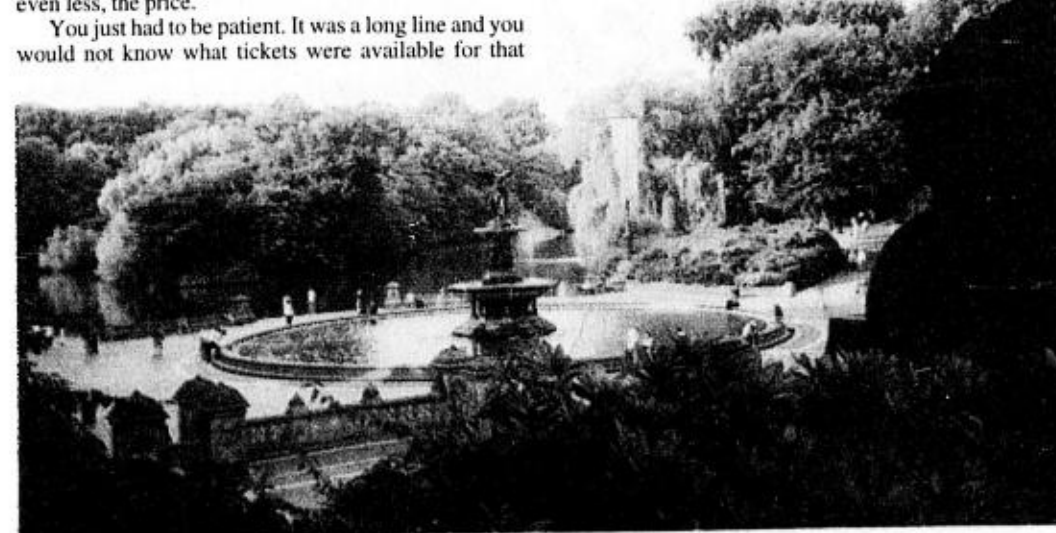
Over lunch we talked about seeing some Broadway shows. Cesar wanted to see that big hit, "The Producers," but we were told that the available tickets would be for next year yet. Just the same, Cesar bought five tickets for March 2002 at \$45 each. One ticket is for me, so I have to go back there in March!

After lunch I decided to call Ticketmaster for a show that evening. I was lucky to get a ticket to Neil Simon's "The Dinner Party," which was showing at the Music Box. Starring Jon Lovitz, Larry Miller, Len Cariou, Penny Fuller, Veanne Cox and Carolyn McCormick, "The Dinner Party" is a witty play about relationships and marriage in these modern times. The dialogue is very New York. It was fun to watch.

Speaking of relationships, New York is enjoying its own kind of scandal. Mayor Rudolph Giuliani has been scouting for a place to live because he is no longer comfortable staying at Gracie Mansion, the 200-year-old official residence that he shares with his estranged wife and two children. (The mayor has since moved out.—Ed.)

The trouble started when his wife Donna Hanover filed a case and won, barring Giuliani from taking his girlfriend Judith Nathan to Gracie Mansion. Giuliani's reason for sleeping elsewhere: Hanover's exercise equipment, which she uses at all hours, leaves him sleepless up to 5 a.m.

Out-of-towners are curious about the mayor's living arrangements. Not the Filipinos, who can be as blasé as New Yorkers.



WATER and greenery are part of Central Park's drawing power.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Raffle promo

CLIENTS of Powerbooks who purchase a Fodor's Travel Guide have a chance to win a new Palm M100 with Fodor's "On the Go" promo.

The purchase entitles each customer to a raffle ticket and a chance to win one of five Palm M100s to be given away.

The promo is ongoing until Aug. 15. Draw date is Aug. 17.

Fireworks festival

THE MACAU Special Administrative Region is all set for the 13th Macau International Fireworks Festival on

Sept. 1-Oct. 1 at the reclaimed land of the Praia Grande Bay.

Organized by the Macau Government Tourist Office, the annual event is the first of its kind in the world.

Ten groups from various countries will compete for the \$6,000 first prize, \$3,200 second prize and \$1,800 third prize.

Here's the schedule of the fireworks exhibition: Sept. 1, Philippines and Korea; Sept. 8, Australia and Thailand; Sept. 15, Portugal and Taiwan; Sept. 22, United Kingdom and Japan; Oct. 1, China and Switzerland.

Call your travel agency for special Fireworks Festival tour packages.

Other prime events scheduled in Macau are the International Music Festival in October and the much-awaited Macau International Grand Prix in November.

OZ and CX

KOREA'S Asiana Airlines (OZ) has announced its fully reciprocal frequent flyer partnership with Cathay Pacific Airlines (CX) through Asiana Miles, the region's leading travel reward program.

Passengers can now earn Asiana Club miles whenever they fly any CX-operated route. Asiana Club miles are also now redeemable for free flights on CX's worldwide route network. Similarly, CX

Asia Miles members can now earn miles when flying OZ.

Asiana Club members will also earn a 50-percent mileage bonus when flying first class and a 25-percent bonus when on business class on any CX-operated route. Free trips earned can be booked at the OZ reservations and ticketing offices in Makati City.

The two airlines are members of Asia Miles, which counts a total of 75-member airlines, hotels and resorts, credit card companies, telecommunications, car rentals, restaurants and other travel and leisure institutions. Other airline partners include American Airlines, British Airways, Japan Airlines, Qantas, China

Eastern and Swissair.

To celebrate the partnership, OZ is also offering Asiana Club members a special 1,000-mile bonus on any OZ or CX flight until Sept. 30. Only one bonus is allowed per member.

For more information, call Asiana Airlines at 892-5681-88.

Cool nights

THE 12-HECTARE Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park in Kawit, Cavite, invites patrons to cool nights at any of its entertainment outlets.

At the Purple Ostrich Café, Bar Disco and Concert Hall, there's ballroom dancing on Tuesdays; comedy and

sing-along led by talents of The Library Bar of Malate (show charge: P50) on Wednesdays; music on Thursdays; an all-night party with live band music on Fridays; and disco dancing on Saturdays.

Island Songs, the resort's 32-room KTV, is open on weekdays from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 3 a.m. on weekends and holidays.

For information and reservations, call Cavite at (046) 434-0210 or Makati at (02) 810-3740, 810-3728, or 810-5351. The toll-free numbers are 810-3718, 810-3732, 810-3764 and 810-5683. Ore-mail islacove@info.com.ph or log on to www.islandcovephil.com.

New Macau-Laoag flight aims to show tourists RP's safe

BY CONSTANTINO C. TEJERO
PHOTOS BY EDWIN TUYAY

IT'S hard enough selling a country without all these people crying all the time, 'Mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa!'" Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon said with a tinge of world-weariness and exasperation during a midnight press conference recently.

He was referring in particular to members of the press highlighting criminality, insurgency, banditry and volcanic eruptions in the country and thus driving the tourists away. This has tripled the task in his hand and he has to work double-time to lure back the much-needed source of revenues.

Running a slight fever, Gordon went on a whirlwind trip to Macau, Hong Kong and Laoag July 17-20 with a small delegation from his department, the Bureau of Immigration and the media.

In three days, the man accomplished a few things that may prove invaluable in time: inaugurating the Macau-Laoag-Macau route; interviews on CNN and with the Macau, Hong Kong and Ilocos press; casting out for business and cultural exchange prospects.

After a brief presscon with Air Macau officials, the delegates dropped by the famous São Malou, that picture-book square and arcade where the OFWs congregate on weekends. Then they walked over to the Macau Government Tourist Office for a briefing with its director João Manuel Costa Antunes.

The meeting was informal and cordial. The official revealed that 41 percent of Macau's gross domestic product comes from the tourism industry—21 percent from the casinos (of course), and 20 percent from other tourism activities (hotels, shopping, sightseeing tours).

Country's image

The Philippine delegation was dismayed to learn that Macau, only a city, has an annual tourism budget (for promotion and training of personnel) of \$6 million while the Philippines spends only P660,000. (*Nakapanglilit, 'di ba?*)

In a recent report, H. Varma, World Tourism Organization regional representative for Asia and the Pacific, points out that what the Philippine tourism industry particularly lacks are marketing and promotion efforts. Without sufficient makeover, the country is seen abroad as unsafe for tourists.

Varma's statement is telling: "There is so much pessimism about Philippine tourism, but this country can do much better. It deserves more than what it is taking right now." And he cites the country's "high-quality tourism products, attractions of international merit, infrastructure and, above all, a very warm and hospitable people."

After lunch in an ancient Portuguese fort, some members of the group joined Gordon on that rainy afternoon and boarded a ferry to Hong Kong, where he was scheduled to be interviewed by the Hong Kong press in Marriot Hotel and on CNN.

In the few sound bites allotted him, he bravely attempted to deliver statements designed to correct the image of Philippine tourism, in his signature fast, nonstop way of speaking.

Another interview was held at the opposite end of Hong Kong with the staff of a leading Chinese magazine. At past midnight, the group returned to Macau.

Warm welcome

On the night of the inaugural flight, Macanese and Filipino delegates gathered for cocktails at the Macau International Airport. After a round of speeches and another series of interviews, Gordon and the Filipino and Chinese delegates and tourists boarded a 180-seater plane and stepped into history.

Air Macau's maiden flight to Laoag International Airport on July 19 could be opening a floodgate. Macau's flag-carrier will initially fly the route twice a week, but the number of flights will soon be increased. Now think of the potential of a Chinese tourist market—it simply is huge.

Tourists from Macau, Hong Kong, Southern China, Taiwan, even Japan and Korea can now go directly to their destinations in the North in one hour and 10 minutes, without having to pass through the jaws of hell—Manila traffic and assorted malefactors.

It was touching to return to one's country and be welcomed by people singing in the rain. The Chinese visitors were rather taken aback when, as soon as they stepped on Philippine ground, a choir of young warblers in the rain regaled them with Tagalog

kundiman and Ilocano folksongs.

Gordon and the Chinese delegates held a presscon at midnight in Fort Ilocandia, before calling it a day.

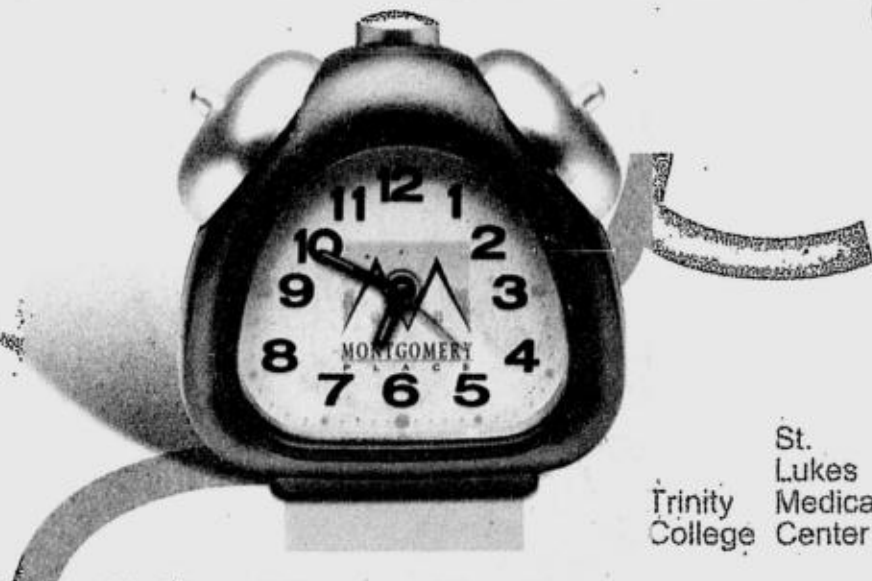
"Every tourist arrival signifies one job for a Filipino," Gordon said. "All of us have a personal stake in our tourism industry. Every fruit a tourist orders is grown on a Filipino farm. Every hotel a tourist stays in was built by Filipino hands."

His point was simply that, the press must report what's news as is its responsibility, but for the sake of tourism and, therefore, for the good of the country, it must also take care to specify that the Abu Sayyaf incident, for instance, is an isolated case happening thousands of miles down south—so far away that going there is like flying to another country.



SECRETARY Gordon and Macau Secretary for Transportation and Public Works Ao Man Long on board inaugural Air Macau flight to Laoag Int'l Airport

Live here and get a few more dreamtime minutes each morning.

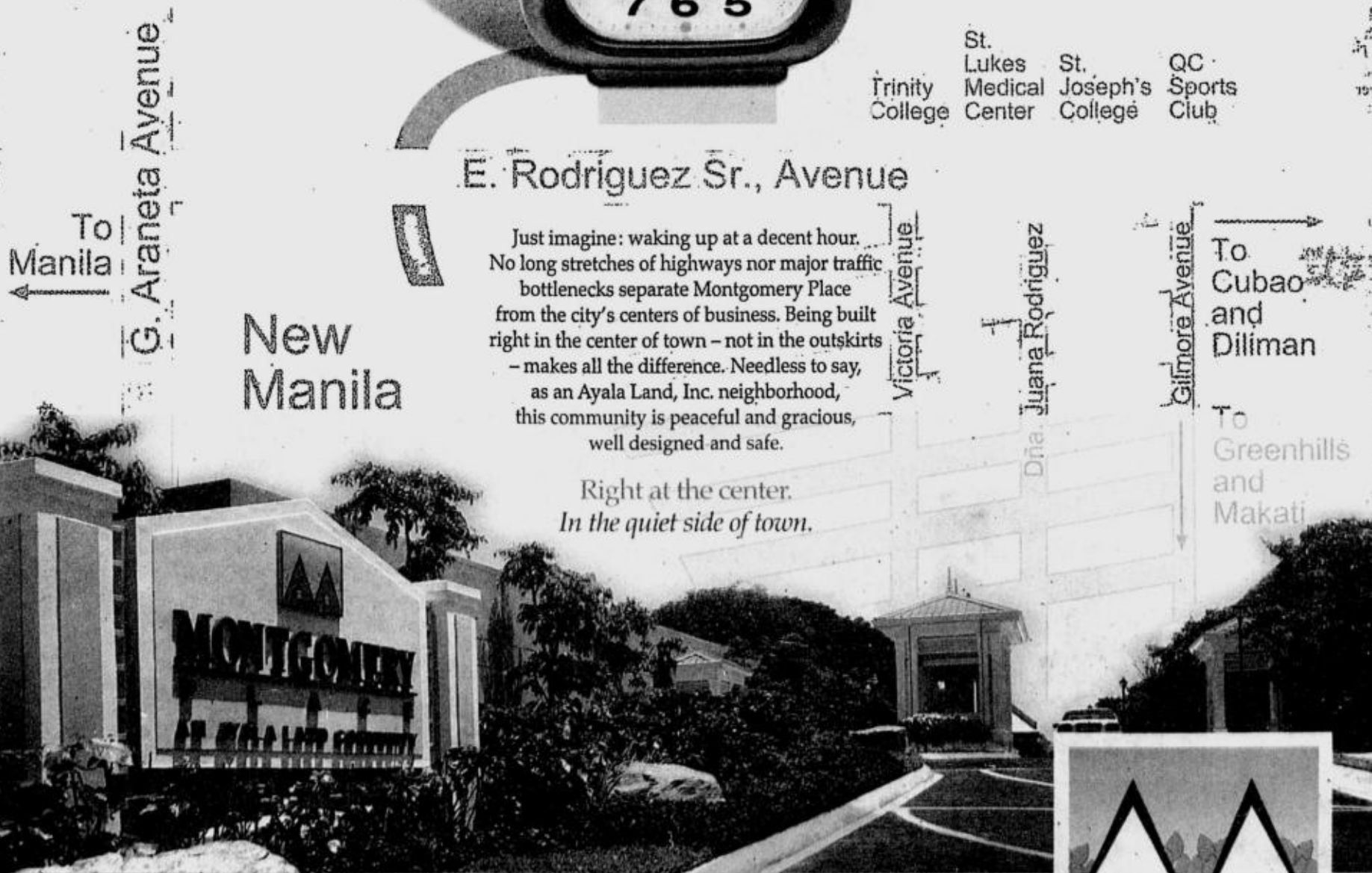


Trinity College
St. Lukes Medical Center
St. Joseph's College
QC Sports Club

E. Rodriguez Sr., Avenue

Just imagine: waking up at a decent hour. No long stretches of highways nor major traffic bottlenecks separate Montgomery Place from the city's centers of business. Being built right in the center of town—not in the outskirts—makes all the difference. Needless to say, as an Ayala Land, Inc. neighborhood, this community is peaceful and gracious, well designed and safe.

Right at the center.
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PHILIPPINE Immigration officer checking travel documents of Chinese tourists in Laoag Int'l Airport



SECRETARY Gordon presents a Filipino "Style" book to Macau Government tourism council director João Manuel Costa Antunes

GLENDA Barretto and Sunny Orbeta



Book shows way with seafoods

IT'S been a long time coming but Glenda Rosales Barretto finally sat down and put together her third picture book titled "Via Mare (Way of the Seas)", a Seafood Cookbook published by Arden Imprints of London and distributed by National Bookstore. Glenda, one of our more famous gourmands and has been featured on CNN and other cooking shows, has run her Via Mare restaurant for more than 25 years. Her culinary creations have retained their delicious consistency and fresh quality.

Need a caterer for 50 to 5,000 people? Glenda is the woman to call. Even Malacañang is a regular client. Surely, her seafood recipes will be a bestseller and we will all be a few pounds heavier but happier.

After the launch, we went to check out Conways at Shangri-La Makati, the hottest place for retro music where the popular Spirit of '67 band performs. And guess who we bumped into? No less than President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

TEESAW



Raul Teehankee



CHARACTER actress Dexter Doria



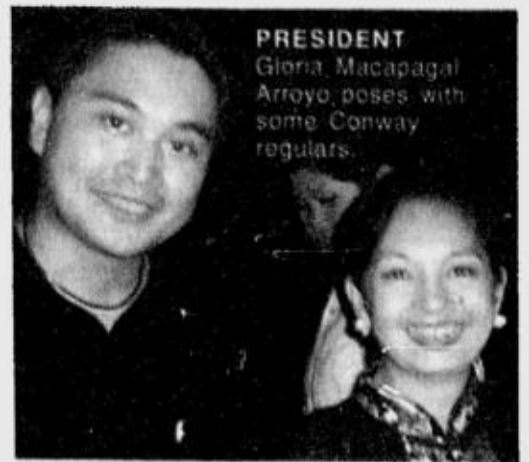
PANCHO Barretto



FRIEDA Brodett Fernandez



PIA Velasquez with Maripi Muscat and daughter

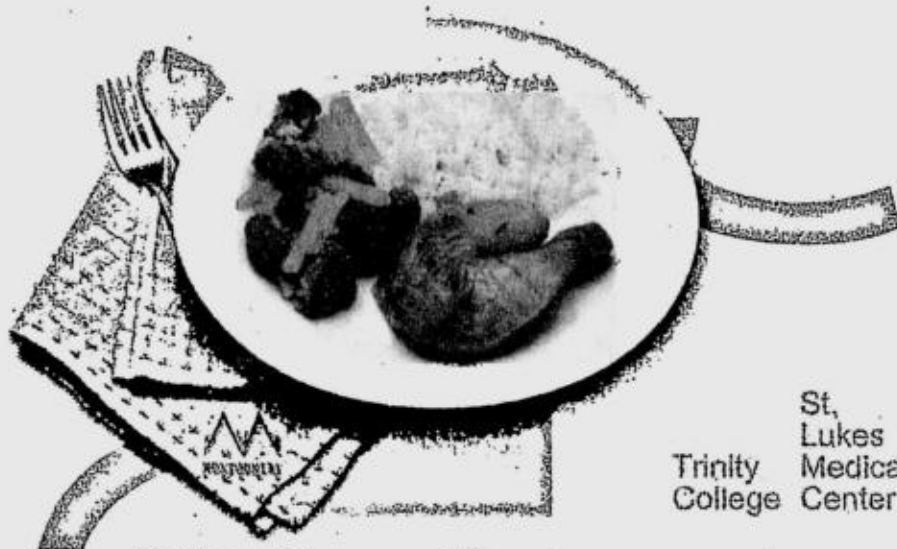


PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal Arroyo poses with some Conway regulars.



MARK de la Cruz and Joy Wassmer of Shangri-La Makati

Live here and discover what interesting dinner conversation kids make.



St. Lukes Medical Center
Trinity College
St. Joseph's College
QC Sports Club

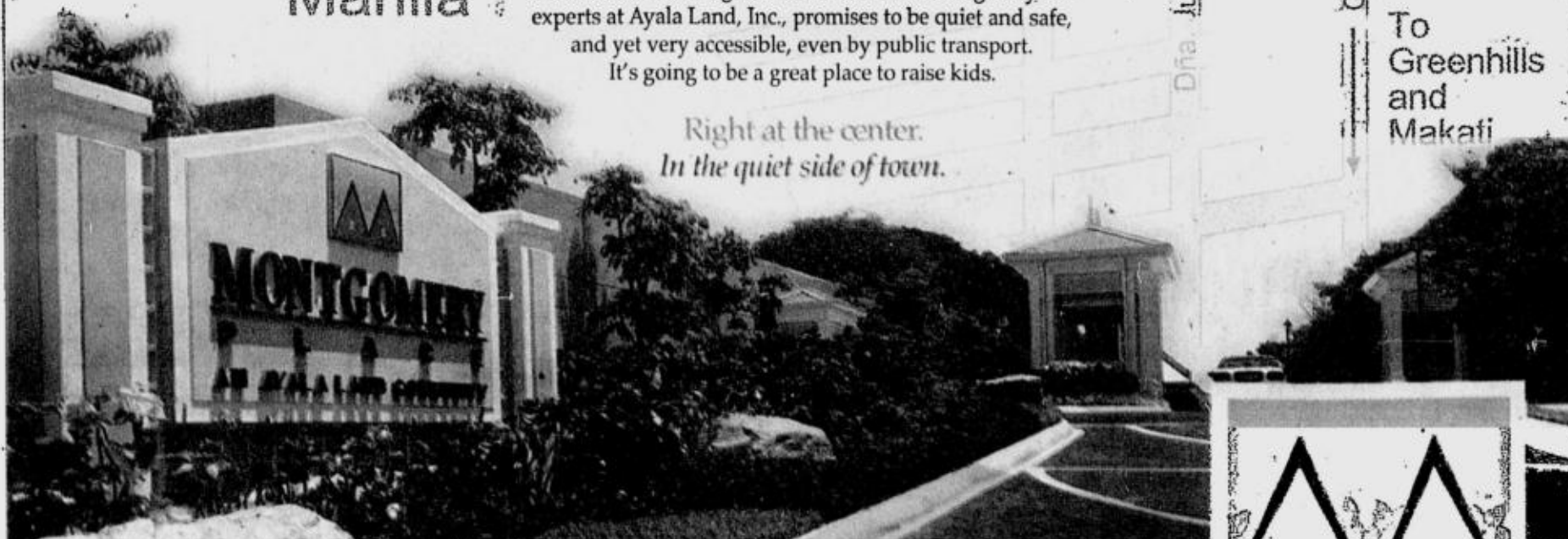
E. Rodriguez Sr., Avenue

Everyday, it seems kids grow smarter. Being in the center of the city lets you be home in time to enjoy them and be active parts of their lives. That's why Montgomery Place has fast become the first choice among families. Not only can parents get home to their kids in time for dinner, it's also close to a great selection of private schools and universities. The neighborhood built and managed by the experts at Ayala Land, Inc., promises to be quiet and safe, and yet very accessible, even by public transport. It's going to be a great place to raise kids.

Right at the center.
In the quiet side of town.

To Manila
G. Araneta Avenue

New Manila



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Is the Honorable

(From page F1)



producers. "I'll tell you the truth," he said. "Between you and me, I will have to say that the government cannot stop piracy."

The leaders of the recording industry were aghast. "So what is government for?" one of them thought to himself. Many left the meeting crushed.

But was the Cabinet member less than candid? The shopping mall and commercial center that his family owns teems with shops, boutiques and stalls selling pirated CDs, tapes and other items. How can his agency run after pirates when his own family coddles them?

Jeopardous jeepneys



BEWARE of the Buendia-Edsa intersection. Driving north from Edsa toward Mandaluyong, passing past the Buendia intersection where cars begin to merge at the foot of the Buendia flyover, you may suddenly be cut by high-flying jeepneys descending furiously from the flyover, coming from the leftmost lane and dangerously swerving to the rightmost. Most of the jeepneys, headed toward Guadalupe from Pasay City, race to get to the pavement to drop off and pick up passengers. But why are passenger jeepneys endangering Edsa with their recklessness? Aren't jeepneys supposedly banned from Edsa? Paging the MMDA...

Lychees for Josh



LOOKING for lychees in the wee hours can be tough. But that was what the bodyguard of former President Cory Aquino did for Kris Aquino's 6-year-old son, Josh, when the boy was confined at St. Luke's Hospital.

Josh was hurt in an accident late Wednesday afternoon when their Ford Expedition ran over him outside their residence in Quezon City.

On his first night in the hospital, Josh refused to take his medicine, according to Mom. The boy kept crying for lychees so Ms Aquino's bodyguard went out to look for some. When the lychees arrived, Josh ate more than 20 pieces and later drank his medicine, said Kris.

Lola Cory noted the lychees might have served as pain reliever for Josh. He woke up again at 3 a.m. because of the pain. He had to be sedated.

At St. Luke's, the boy's attending physician was Kris' cousin George Canlas, a sports injury doctor and orthopedic surgeon.

From the hospital, mother and son went straight to Lola Cory's house on Times Street, West Triangle, Quezon City, where they will stay for at least two weeks while the boy recovers.

Taxes are not amusing



GARY V. fever swept Davao where Mr. Pure Energy was scheduled to hold a concert yesterday. The hot news in Davao media, however, was the amusement tax. The concert promoters reportedly appealed for a full exemption from the amusement tax since the show's beneficiary is the Bantay Bata. But the city council, reportedly over-reacting to rumors that a councilor had been paid to guarantee the exemption, did not pass the resolution for the exemption.

Amusement taxes are killing the live concert scene. Many Metro Manila mayors have already expressed a willingness to lower the tax. But when that will become a reality it's not sure. In this life, as they say, the only certainties are death and taxes.

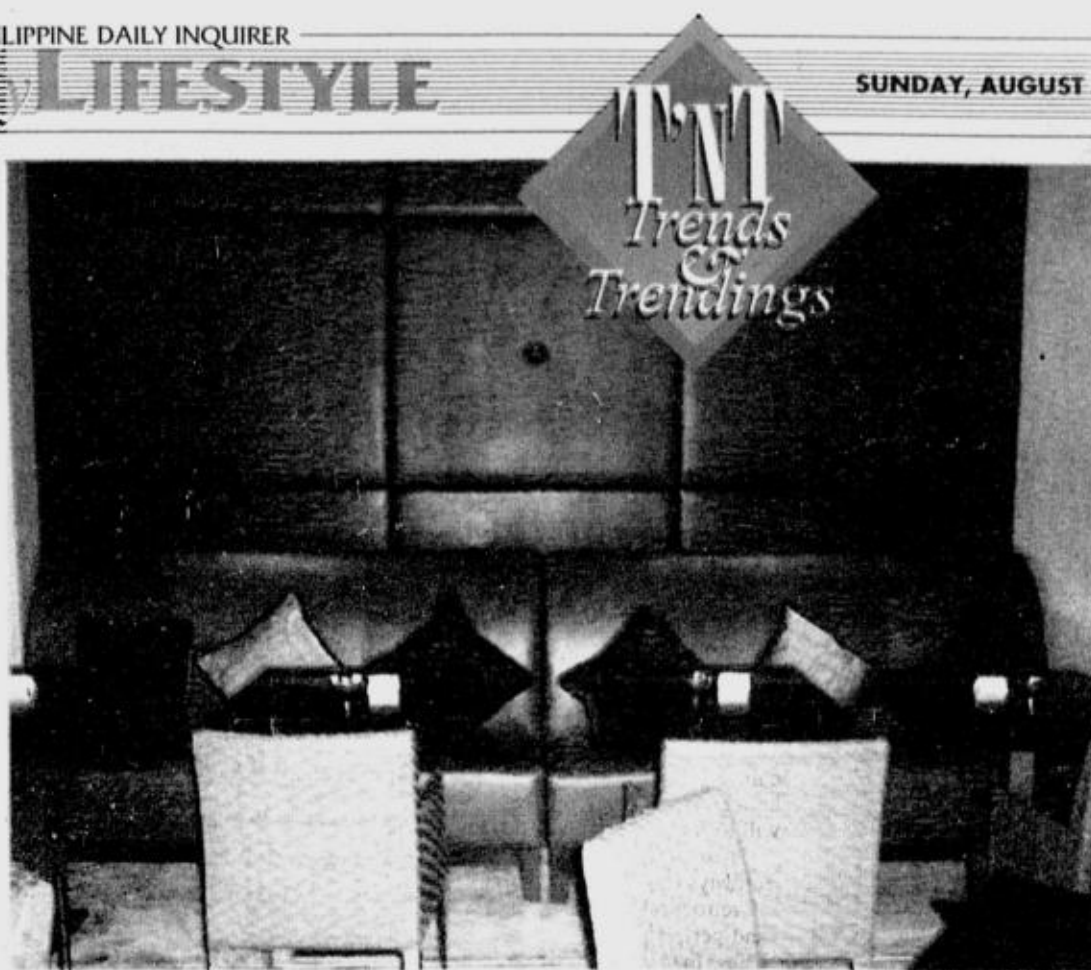


KRIS Aquino with son Josh

BY ANTON SAN DIEGO

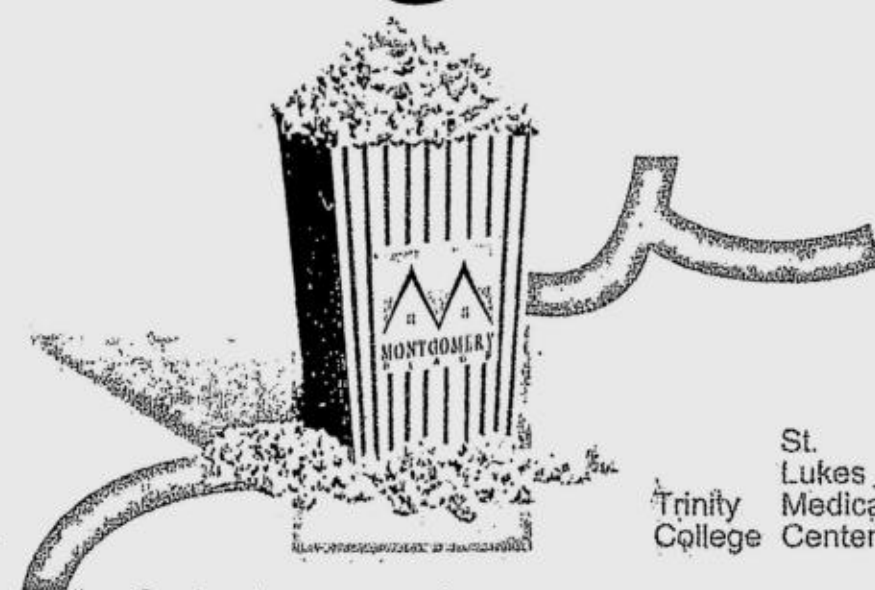
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E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com



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Live here and
get home in time
to watch more
than just the late
evening news.



E. Rodriguez Sr., Avenue

Catch the blockbuster you missed on HBO. Or finally find out why everyone in the office is crazy about this new TV series. Living in the center of the city allows you the time to get a life before bedtime, and not only with fun you can have at home, but also at the restaurant rows and bistros at the nearby Morat district and Greenhills. Your weekdays need not be all work and serious matters. At Montgomery Place, you'll find the time for fun.

Right at the center.
In the quiet side of town.

To
Manila
←

New Manila

St. Lukes Medical Center	St. Joseph's College	QC Sports Club
--------------------------	----------------------	----------------

Gilmore Avenue →
To
Cubao
and
Diliman

→
To
Greenhills
and
Makati

Dña. Juana Rodríguez

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sports



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Ring tone

rock

description	artist/composer	keyword
All Star	Smashmouth	STONE ALLSTAR
Black Dog	Led Zeppelin	STONE BLACKDOG
Head Over Heels	Eagles	STONE HEDOVERHEEL
Hotel California	Googoo Dolls	STONE HOTELCALI
It's	Van Halen	STONE IRIS
Jump	Eric Clapton	STONE JUMP
Layla	REM	STONE LAYLA
Losing My Religion	Jed Leiber	STONE LOSINAY
Love Potion No.9	Red Hot Chili Peppers	STONE LUVPOTION
Other Side	Sugar Ray	STONE ODDERSYD
Someday	Depeche Mode	STONE SUNDAY
Strange Love	Europe	STONE STRINGELY
The Final Countdown	Vapors	STONE FINALCNT
Turning Japanese	Red Hot Chili Peppers	STONE JAPANIS
Under The Bridge	Led Zeppelin	STONE UNDRBRDG
Whole Lotta Love		STONE WHOLAATALLIV

tv

description	artist/composer	keyword
Ally McBeal Theme	Vonda Shepard	STONE ALLYMC
Babylon 5 Theme	TV Cue	STONE BABYLONS
Batman Theme	Danny Elfman	STONE BATMAN
Dallas (TV Cue)	Stephen Irzmel	STONE DALLAS
Doogie Howser Theme	TV Cue	STONE DOOGIE
Flinstone (TV Cue)	Merv Griffin	STONE FLINSTO
Jeopardy Theme	Joseph Barbera	STONE JEPRDY
Scooby Doo Theme	Danny Elfman	STONE SCOOPY
Simpsons Theme		STONE SIMPSONS

movie

description	artist/composer	keyword
Addams Family Theme	Mike Post	STONE ADDAMS
Animal Song	Savage Garden	STONE ANIMAL
Duel Of the Fates	Star Wars Episode 1	STONE EPISODE1
Dying Young	James Newton Howard	STONE DIEYOUNG
Godfather Theme	N. Rota	STONE GODFATHER
I Don't Wanna Miss A Thing	Melt Serlitta	STONE MISATING
I Say A Little Prayer	My Best Friend's Wedding	STONE SAYAIL
Rocky Theme	Carol Connors	STONE ROCKY
Star Wars 3 Theme	John Williams	STONE STRWARS3
Superman Theme	Leon Klatskin	STONE SUPERMAN
The Imperial March	The Empire Strikes Back	STONE IMPERIAL
Under The Sea	Little Mermaid	STONE UNDERSEA
Xmen Theme		STONE XMEN

special

description	artist/composer	keyword
Fiddler On The Roof	Harnick	STONE FIDDLER
Birdland	Joseph Zawinul	STONE BIRDLAND
Songbird	Kenny G	STONE SONGBIRD

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 ☎ 912-9008-11 ☎ 912-9011
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., Q. CITY
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- Must be knowledgeable on telephone operations of a digital PABX system, fax administration, reception procedures and secretarial work;
- Exposure in administrative work will be an advantage

We offer a very competitive compensation & benefits package and an exciting career in SONY. Qualified candidates may send their comprehensive resumés with a 2x2 ID picture, e-mail addresses and contact telephone numbers to:

The Human Resources Department
 (Position Code: en-fos2001)
SONY PHILIPPINES INC.
 26th Flr, Tower 1, The Enterprise Center Building,
 6766 Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas
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or
 E-mail your resumé to encalega@sony.com.ph (no attachments please)
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- Experience and awareness on different Windows (Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT and ME) and/or Mac (OS 8 and above) Operating Systems
- Familiarity with the concepts of Web publishing technologies such as HTML, Browsers, Plug-ins as well as servers
- Fluency in written and spoken English
- Proven skills in business writing and phone handling
- Strong customer service orientation, analytical, results-oriented and a team player
- Willingness to work on a shifting schedule is essential

If you think you possess the qualifications and skills that we are looking for, kindly submit your updated resumé along with your web profiles **on or before, 8 August 2001**, to the Human Resources Dept. 4F SMPC Bldg., St. Francis Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City 1550. You can also send it via e-mail at hrd@man.ph.sykes.com

C.L. FLOWERS AND SONS, an established family owned business, engaged in the manufacture of concrete blocks, concrete forms and styrofoam products and owner of FADS Security which mans the screening checkpoint is in need of:

(2) FEMALE SECURITY OFFICERS

Applicants must be fluent in English, be able to man and supervise a shift, must have effective communication skills and good interpersonal relations. Must be able to type incident reports and must have 2 years experience in this field. Hiring rates and benefits are highly competitive.

Please send resumé with picture to:

Box Code: CLF400
 c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
 Classified Ads Division
 5/F, Building B, SM Megamall
 EDSA, Mandaluyong City
 or
 E-mail to:

Cflowers@candw.ky <<mailto:cflowers@candw.ky>>
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Trainer

Design and conduct client specific, continuing education and behavioral training for eReps. Gather client information and develop course curriculum as needed. **Qualifications:** 5+ years training experience on software, customer service, sales, and/or management skills. Good working knowledge of adult educational concepts, course development, and the Internet. Excellent English communication skills, as well as strong training, presentation and interpersonal skills. Proficiency in MS Word and PowerPoint. Available to work shifts, including graveyard and the occasional weekend. Familiarity with call center environment. Experience in the travel industry, specifically in designing and conducting training on travel reservations systems.

Real time Analyst

Monitor and analyze call volumes and recommend to team supervisors short-term staffing adjustments to address issues. Verify staff adherence to the schedules. Report planned vs. actual staffing data. Maintain accurate staffing data in workforce management system. **Qualifications:** Experience in staffing and scheduling in a call center/operations environment. Strong data analysis and problem solving skills. Objective and capable of keeping confidential information. Willing to work on a shifting schedule. Knowledgeable in CMS reporting. Strong working knowledge of MS Access, Word, Excel and Powerpoint. Statistics, math or industrial engineering background a big plus.

WorkForce Analyst

Maintain the workforce management system. Develop forecast and staffing strategies based on historical and projected information such as clients' volumes and other factors. Create shift schedules that meet service levels, revenue goals, operating and budget parameters. **Qualifications:** 2+ years experience in forecasting, staffing and scheduling in a call center/operations environment. Thorough understanding of scheduling methodology in a 24x7 operation. Strong working knowledge of MS Access, Word, Excel and Powerpoint. Familiarity with workforce management software.

Senior HR associate

Handle employee relations including counselling and discipline, policy development and enforcement, advising managers and employees alike on HR programs and policies. Assist in recruitment and compensation and benefits. **Qualifications:** 5+ years human resources experience. Knowledgeable in labor laws and compliance requirements. Excellent English communication and interpersonal skills. Preferred experience in 24x7 operations. Computer and internet savvy.

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ORICA Explosives Philippines Inc
 7/F Guada Building
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- Male, not more than 35 years of age;
- At least three (3) to five (5) years practice preferably with a law firm;
- Background and experience in project financing and contracts review in power projects preferred.

Interested applicants may submit or fax their resumés by **August 10, 2001 to Suite 2501-A, 25th Floor, Tektite Tower I, Exchange Road, Ortigas Centre, Pasig City. Fax Nos. 634-6543, 634-1585.**

A fast-growing local food manufacturing company is in need of experienced and qualified individuals to fill-in the following positions:

Export Manager

- college graduate (4-year course); not more than 35 years old
- w/ at least 5 years experience from a food export company

Production Manager

- not more than 35 years old
- preferably, an Industrial Engineering graduate with some background in business management
- at least 3-5 years supervisory experience in food manufacturing company

Marketing Officer

- graduate of any 4-year business course
- w/ at least 2 years experience in marketing
- background in market research, preferred

Marketing Assistant

- graduate of any 4-year business course;
- background in events handling preferred

Sales Representative

- male; not more than 30 years old;
- college graduate; any 4-year course;
- w/ least a year experience in selling consumer products;
- knows how to drive; with drivers license

Secretary

- fresh graduate; computer literate
- can communicate well both in oral & written english

Accounting Clerk

- BSBA fresh graduate
- can work well under extreme pressure
- computer literate

Receptionist

- with pleasing personality
- college graduate an advantage

Applicants must mail their resume with recent 2x2 picture and contact phone number to:

Code: QC 2001-52
c/o PHIL. DAILY INQUIRER
 G/F St. Anthony's Bldg.
 891 Aurora Blvd., corner Oxford St.
 Cubao, Quezon City 1109

Visit us at
www.jobmarketonline.com

MANAGERIAL/TECHNICAL



**network
solutions and
interfaces corp.**

Unit 301 3/F Aguirre Bldg.
812 Pasay Road, Makati City
Tel. Nos.: 892-1591, 92, 94, 96
www.nsi.com.ph

Network Solutions & Interfaces Corp. is a leading player in IT Connectivity Solution Provider for wire and wireless LAN/WAN System Integration Business. In line with our expansion program, we invite high caliber and motivated professionals to join our team as:

A. Computers / IT

Technical Sales Consultant

Successful candidate will undergo comprehensive local and foreign training (whenever applicable). He or she will be responsible for Sales and Account Development for end-users System Integration Requirement — Structured Cabling, Wireless LAN/WAN, and Active Network Equipment. Prepare and conduct customer presentation for the proposed Network Design and Solutions covering both Technical and commercial issues.

- Male or Female
- At least 20-28 years old
- Graduate of B.S. - E.C.E., Computer Science or Engineering
- Excellent Communication and Sales Presentation Skills
- Preferably with experience in Direct Sales and Marketing; Networking Design and Administration but not required

We offer attractive Compensation package and for Sales - Commission, Allowance (Transportation and Cell Phone), Bonus, Health Insurance and other benefits.

B. Accounting Staff

- Male or Female
- At least 20-25 years old
- Knowledge in general accounting
- Preferably with at least one year experience
- With good scholastic record

C. Admin. Assistant/ General Accounting Clerk

- Male or Female
- At least 20-25 years old
- Graduate of any Business Admin. Course
- Familiar with Excel and Microsoft Word
- Fluent in English
- Knowledge in personnel management and general accounting
- Preferably with at least one year experience
- With good scholastic record

**A WELL ESTABLISHED FIRST CLASS RETAIL COMPANY
IS IN NEED OF TOP CALIBER INDIVIDUALS
TO FILL IN THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:**

CORPORATE PLANNING ANALYST

- Between 24 to 35 years old
- College graduate with a degree in Industrial Engineering, Business or Finance
- Preferably with experience in corporate planning and financial analysis
- Must have strong analytical and interpersonal skills
- Must have good oral and written communication skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Must be computer literate

SALES MANAGER for Personal Care

- Between 28 to 35 years old
- Graduate of a four (4)-year Business related course
- With at least two (2) years managerial experience in a direct/retail selling environment
- Preferably with good exposure in distributing consumer products to supermarkets
- Cable in handling sales, operations, and marketing aspects of a growing direct retail business
- Creative and with good communication skills
- Must be computer literate

PERSONNEL MANAGER

- Female, between 30 to 40 years old
- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science/Studies or Human Resource Management; a Masteral degree is an advantage
- Minimum of three (3) years experience in a similar capacity, handling all facets of HR work
- With very strong leadership qualities, organizational and interpersonal skills
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Possesses a pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character
- Highly motivated and results-oriented
- Computer literate

Please send or e-mail your application documents with contact numbers indicated, transcript of records, and a recent 2 x 2 photo to:

P.O. BOX 100
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th Floor, Building B, Megamall, Mandaluyong City
E-mail: jm1@inquirer.com.ph
(subject: MEGA-R)

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)

CIGI

SIG

CIGI and SIG are companies wholly owned by the Global BOC Group. We have a reputation for technical innovation and reliable service making us the leading industrial gas manufacturer and service provider in the whole Philippines. Due to recent developments in our organization, our company has a current vacancy for a HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER-Philippines, a job that will be based in Manila.

The ideal person for this position should have the following qualifications:

- No more than 40 years old
- Graduate of any behavioral science course such as Sociology, Industrial or Organizational Psychology
- Preferably with background in law or has taken some masteral units in Human Resources or MBA
- With at least 5 years working experience in an HR Office, at least three (3) years of which in managerial status
- With hands-on working knowledge in all facets of HR Management such as payroll, benefits administration, recruitment, training, employee relations and organizational development
- Must have actual experience in CBA negotiation
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must have a good working knowledge of MS Word, Excel, and Powerpoint
- Must be willing to travel anytime and a holder of a valid driver's license, with at least two years continuous driving experience

SHOULD YOU POSSESS THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS, PLEASE FORWARD A LETTER OF INTENT WITH YOUR CV and ONE 2X2 PICTURE TO:

HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION
Consolidated Industrial Gases, Inc.
Sheridan Street, Mandaluyong City
Contact Person: SOL HIMAN
Email Address: sol.himan@cigl.com.ph
(CLOSING DATE: AUGUST 15, 2001)

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

PRYCE CORPORATION, a company listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange, with interests in manufacturing and real estate urgently needs the services of

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

(Hotel Sales based in Manila)

- College graduate from a reputable school
- 1-3 years experience in hotel sales and services
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Computer literate
- Personable, aggressive, self-motivated and can work with minimum supervision

LEGAL/ADMIN. ASSISTANT

- College graduate. LIB and/or MBA units an advantage
- 1-3 years experience in research-oriented organization of a legal and management services
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Computer literate
- Personable, aggressive, self-motivated and can work with minimum supervision

Send resumé with at least three references, transcript of records and 2x2 ID picture to:

PRYCE CORPORATION
17th F/ Pryce Center Building
1179 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City
or FAX to 899-68-65

SAMIE INT'L. RECR. & GEN. SVCS.

2127 SAINT GOTHARD BLDG., A. MABINI STREET,
MALATE MANILA
LICENSE NO. 549-LB-120400-R
TEL. 536-3394/536-5278
ACCREDITATION NO. 59166-3

LEADING COMPANY IN SAUDI ARABIA
NEED THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

SALESMAN

Age 25-35; 5 years experience in softdrink selling/marketing; With professional driver's license; He should be x-saudi or Gulf in Pepsi Cola company.

MERCHANDISER

Age 25-35; 5 years experience in softdrink selling/marketing; He should be college graduate and with professional driver's license; He should be x-saudi or Gulf in Pepsi Cola or Coca cola company.

REFRIGERATOR TECHNICIAN

Age 25-35; Experience in repair cooler and fountain machine; He should be computer literate.

INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIAN

Age 25-35; 5 years experience in factory; X-saudi or Gulf.

ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN

No less than 5 years experience in Audio/Video & other electronic appliance.

CAR ELECTRICIAN

Experience in auto electricals Japanese & American car; X-saudi or Gulf.

FURNITURE DESIGNER

Experience 5 years and with knowledge in Auto CADD or Manual.

FEMALE NURSE

3 years above experience in Hospital or Clinic; Graduate with diploma in Nursing and with license.

REQUIREMENTS: Resumé with job description, Certificate of employment with 2x2 ID picture. Interested applicants outside Metro Manila can send their resumé to Samie International.

FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY / NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED
BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS / THIS AD IS APPROVED BY P.O.E.A.



GeoSpatial Solutions
www.geospatial-solutions.com

LEADERS IN GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY

GeoSpatial Solutions is an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) company that specializes in the development of Geographic Information Systems. We are looking for the following ICT Professionals to be part of our team:

RECEPTIONISTS

one year experience as a frontliner; familiarity with MS Office; a business, marketing or communications graduate

SYSTEMS ANALYSTS

two years relevant work experience in systems analysis and design, systems development and computer programming; an engineering, science or computer science graduate

GRAPHIC ARTISTS

two years experience in print publication, digital design, or advertising; a fine arts or architecture graduate

INFORMATION SPECIALISTS

three years relevant work experience in research; a communication, research, library science or computer science graduate

MARKETING ASSISTANTS

one year experience in market analysis, brand management or general marketing; a business, marketing or tourism graduate

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

two years relevant experience in office management; a business, accounting, or economics graduate

Apply to us in person or send us your application via e-mail.
3102-C East Tower, PSE Ctr. (Tekile Towers), Ortigas Ctr. Pasig City 1805 Philippines
hr.admin@geospatial-solutions.com

GADGETSTM MAGAZINE

the only local publication that caters to the Filipino's passion for the latest in technology, is currently looking for thingamajig enthusiasts to fill up the following positions immediately.



Managing Editor
Contributing Writers
Editorial Assistant
Senior Account Managers
Junior Account Managers
Bookkeeper / Accounting Staff
Graphic Artists

If you have an upbeat personality, a creative mind, a dogged sense of purpose, and a career's worth of experience, submit your resumé, indicating the position you wish to apply for, and recent 2x2 photo to 3/F MB Bldg. #6 Kalayaan Ave., Diliman Q.C., (Tel. 920-6910) look for Grace. You may also email us via ad@gadgets magazine.com.

We are inviting aggressive and mature individuals to fill up our vacant position as we continue our commitment in giving the best quality of service to our clients.

ESTIMATOR / DRAFTSMAN

- Civil Engineering graduate.
- Male not more than 28 years old.
- Computer literate (Word, Excel).
- Knowledgeable in AutoCAD 2000 and R14.
- Knowledge in Project Management is an advantage.
- At least 1 year experience.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS may send or submit personally their updated resumé with recent ID picture, NBI clearance, photocopy of transcript of records and certificate of previous employment to:



533 Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City
dnsteel@paciflc.net.ph

MANAGERIAL/TECHNICAL-PROFESSIONAL

**A PROGRESSIVE CORPORATION,
HEAVY ON
INVESTMENT PROMOTION,**

IS URGENTLY SEEKING COMPETENT AND VALUE DRIVEN
INDIVIDUALS TO FILL THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

LAWYERS

- ☑ 3 years minimum experience in legal work preferably in Litigation
- ☑ Willing to relocate in Bataan
- ☑ Excellent communication skills

**SAFETY/ENVIRONMENTAL
SPECIALISTS**

- ☑ 2 years minimum experience in Safety/Environmental Management or related field
- ☑ Chemical Engineers/Chemists/Environmental Science/Management graduates preferred
- ☑ Good communication skills, computer literate

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

- ☑ 2 years minimum experience, preferably in design, construction and inspection of electrical systems in manufacturing plants
- ☑ Good communication skills, computer literate

**A COMPETITIVE COMPENSATION PACKAGE AND FRINGE
BENEFITS AWAIT SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS!!!**

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé and other credentials to:

P.O. Box 3403
MAKATI CENTRAL POST OFFICE
1274 MAKATI CITY

Valvoline Oil Company

An opportunity exist to join one of the largest independent oil company in the USA. This lubricant specialist will be expanding its Petroleum Operation in the Philippines and is setting up corporate office in Metro Manila.

A self starter is needed to join this Fortune 500 company and lead this entity through its next exciting growth phase in the Philippine market.

NEEDS**Country Manager**

- To start up company organization
- To organize and manage the administration, operational and marketing department
- Opportunity to hand pick team
- Full bottom line responsibility

We Prefer

- Experienced in oil and automotive industry
- 28-35 years old (but flexible)
- Male/female
- Dynamic, aggressive and goal oriented who could work autonomously
- Computer literate
- With good communication skills
- Commercially astute individuals

We Offer

- More than competitive industry rates and benefits
- Overseas training
- Opportunity to head South East Asian operation

If you feel qualified, apply through E-mail: gdnewson@ashland.com or send to Valvoline World Head Quarters Lexington Kentucky U.S.A. Your application letter and resumé would be treated with confidentiality.

To support it's business expansion plans,
an industry market leader
urgently needs the following:

Phone Persons / Customer Service Representatives

- ☑ 17-24 years old; at least College level, preferably Mass Comm., HRM or Management courses
- ☑ With pleasing personality, customer-oriented and dynamic; at least 5'2" in height
- ☑ Prior experience as Customer Service Representative / Telephone Operator is an advantage
- ☑ Preferably residents of Quezon City or Makati; must be familiar within and around Metro Manila
- ☑ Hardworking and trustworthy; willing to be assigned in shifts

Delivery Drivers / Riders

- ☑ Has a valid professional driver's license: Code -1 of good standing
- ☑ Not more than 28 years old; at least College level
- ☑ With pleasing personality, customer-oriented and dynamic; at least 5'4" in height
- ☑ With at least 2 years experience as delivery driver
- ☑ Preferably residents of Quezon City or Makati; must be familiar within and around Metro Manila
- ☑ Hardworking and trustworthy; willing to be assigned in shifts

Qualified applicants should send their bio-data with
contact number, recent 2x2 colored photo to:
HR Department: P.O. Box 284
Greenhills Post Office, 1502 Metro Manila

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**ADD Professional**

The key to your future

We are a consultancy firm which specializes in Canadian Immigration. We are in need of candidates for the following positions:

**Job Analyst
Sales Specialist/ Assistants
Documentation Specialists/ Assistants**

The Benefits

Successful candidates are given above-industry compensation package, incentives, relevant trainings, health benefits and opportunities to assume higher positions within the group of companies.

The Qualifications

- Graduate of a 4-year course (preferably marketing or psychology)
- At least 1 year relevant experience
- PC and Internet literate
- Excellent command of the English language
- With high degree of initiative and responsibility
- Able to work with minimum supervision
- Good organizational and interpersonal skills

Please forward your resume and picture to Ms. Carol Cezar on or before August 10, 2001.

ADD Professional Consultants, Inc.

5th Floor Pillar Building, 148 Amorsolo St. Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. 867 3252 / 894 3486 Fax 818 1055
E-mail: addpro@pacific.net.ph Website: www.addcareers.com

**Build With Us
A New Strength in Banking.**

We are a bank on the threshold of exciting, global opportunities.
And we have immediate openings
for **Branch Managers** in the Metro Manila and Luzon areas.

We need candidates with **tested managerial competencies,**
outstanding marketing skills, and **strong leadership qualities.**
The ability to speak Chinese would be a plus factor.

Preferably, a candidate must have at least three years of banking experience as Branch Manager and not be more than 40 years old.

For qualified applicants, we offer
a competitive compensation package
and tremendous opportunities
for career growth and development.

Interested candidates may send their application letter, comprehensive resume and recent 2 x 2 photograph to:

**P.O. BOX 4035
MANILA**

All applications will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

TECHNICAL/GENERAL

COORDINATOR OF PROJECTS

A non-profit entity seeks an individual who will provide technical and administrative support to senior management, facilitate organizational learning, and manage specific project-related assignments.

Specific skills required: competent writing of essays and correspondence, ability to interpret quantitative and financial data, briefing and presentation skills, capability to manage events.

Candidates need the minimum: Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences, Marketing, Management, Public Relations. At least five years of related work experiences. Computer literacy in MS Office applications. Single and not beyond 30 years of age.

Send applications to:

Box No. MN-2028
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Atrium of Makati
Makati Avenue, Makati City

INCORE

M.H. Del Pilar, Malate

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Full-Time/Part-Time DATA ENCODERS

To be hired on a contractual basis
Excellent Earning Potential

Qualifications:

College Level/College Graduates

Computer Literate

30-35 wpm typing speed (touch typist)

Able to work with speed and accuracy in English

Preferably with prior Data Encoding experience

Email your 2 page resumé to incore_corp@yahoo.com
On or before **August 1, 2001**

Paste your resumé into the body of the email.

No attachments.

Indicate if you are available for Full-Time or Part-Time.

Industrial Galvanizers Corporation of the Philippines



A multi-national firm based in Cavite, engaged in **Galvanizing and Steel Poles Fabrication** is looking for a highly competent individual to fill in a key position in the organization and play a major role in its growth and development.

PLANT SUPERVISOR - GALVANIZING (1)

- Graduate of Mechanical or similar Engineering Degree
- Highly motivated (hands-on necessary) willing to work long hours
- Minimum of one (1) year supervisory experience
- Minimum of two (2) years experience in Steel Industry
- Must be a resident of Trece Martires City & other nearby towns

STRUCTURAL STEEL DETAILER (1)

- Engineering or Architectural graduate - preferably licensed
- 3 to 5 years experience in structural steel detailing
- Has the ability to carry out AUTOCAD DRAFTING & X-STEEL software
- Has an understanding of existing code pertaining structural steel detailing

COSTING & PLANNING ENGINEER (1)

- Graduate of Mechanical or Civil Engineering degree
- With two to five years experience in structural steel works
- Computer literate (MS EXCEL, WORD, LOTUS 123 & AUTOCAD)
- Can work with minimum supervision

FABRICATION ENGINEER (2)

- Civil or Mechanical Engineering graduate
- Familiar with various international standards applied in fabrication
- Minimum of three years experience in mechanical or structural fabrication
- Male 25-35 years old

FABRICATOR (4)

- 3 to 5 years experience in structural & mechanical fabrication
- Can interpret shop drawings
- Familiar in using different types of fabrication tools

Interested qualified applicants may send their resumé through mail or fax to 046-4191829 together with transcript of records to the HR & Admin Officer, Industrial Galvanizers Corporation of the Phils., Brgy. Conchu Trece Martires, Cavite City, on or before August 10, 2001. For inquiries please call 046-4191837. We will respond only to short listed candidates.

We are a multinational company operating in 80 countries worldwide engaged in the marketing & exclusive distribution in the country of a high-end luxury product. In our endeavor to expand our market, we are now in need of positive and result-oriented personnel to join our company as ...

TELEMARKETERS

- Female, at least 23 years old
- Experience in telemarketing not necessary
- Fluent in English and must come across very well over the phone
- Must be hardworking, persevering and has a positive attitude

You will be responsible in setting appointments for our sales representatives to our prospective clients. Training will be provided with allowance.

As a telemarketer, you can earn as much as **P30,000.00 a month!**
We also accept **PART-TIME**.

Send your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture to:

Ms. Ana Tison

6th Floor Makati Executive Center

114 L.P. Leviste (formerly Alfero) corner Herrera Sts.
Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227

DPC

Directories Philippines Corporation
The right Yellow Pages.

Directories Philippines Corporation (DPC) is the leading and biggest publisher of telephone directories in the Philippines. It is the official publisher of telephone directories for PLDT, Piltel, Datelcom, PLDT-Maratel, Cruztelco, General Telephone System Inc., Philcom and Islacom, covering 24 directories. A Charter Member of the Asian Directory Publishers Association, Inc. DPC is the exclusive sales representative in the Philippines of the telephone directories of PCCW of Hongkong, Telekom Publications SDN BHD of Malaysia, PT Infomedia Nusantara of Indonesia, Directel Macau of Macau, GTE Directories (B) SDN BHD of Brunei, Directories Lanka (PVT) Ltd. of Sri Lanka, M & N Publications Ltd. of India, Pacific Access Pty Ltd. of Australia, BCE ActiMedia - M-E & Africa of Middle East, Edward H. O'Brien (PNG) Ltd. of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji Directories Ltd. of Fiji, Worldcorp Holdings (S) Pte Ltd. of Vietnam, NTT Directory Services Co. of Japan, China Telephone Co. of Shanghai, China and Korea Telephone Directory Co. Ltd. of South Korea.

DPC immediately needs quality candidates for the following position:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Male 21-28 years old
- College graduate in top 25% of his graduating class;
- Personable, self-driven, dynamic and aggressive
- Persuasive in oral and written communication
- No previous selling experience required

DPC pays above average compensation. In addition to basic salary, DPC provides allowances, commissions, incentives, foreign trips and other fringe benefits no other company in the industry can match.

If you fit the above description, see us for an interview, August 6-10 2001, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM with your application letter, resume, transcript of records and recent photograph.

DPC
yellow pages
The right Yellow Pages.

DIRECTORIES PHILIPPINES CORPORATION
Corporate Affairs Department
16/F DPC Place,
2322 Chino Rocas Ave.,
(Formerly Pasong Tamo Ext.)
Makati City
www.directoriesphil.com
www.yellowpagesphil.com
dpc@info.com.ph



Charter Member: ASIAN DIRECTORY PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

micros
micros-fidelio

the global leader in advanced property management systems for the hospitality industry, is in search of the following professionals for its Philippine Office:

SALES EXECUTIVES

*Sales experience is preferred.

*Knowledgeable in IT/Point-Of-Sale Systems.

*Hotel and/or Restaurant experience an advantage.

*Personable with superior communication skills.

HARDWARE / SUPPORT ENGINEERS

*Comprehensive experience in IT/Point-Of-Sale Systems and Hardware maintenance.

*Network administration and maintenance skills in Novell NetWare, Windows NT and 2000 OS

Interested applicants may forward their resumé to

The Administration Manager

Micros-Fidelio Software (Phils.), Inc.

2305-B East Tower, PSEC, Exchange Rd.

Ortigas Center, Pasig City

or Fax to 637 8761

UBX

U-BIX CORPORATION, a leading provider of office equipment, furniture and related office services, is now accepting applications for ---

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICERS (Code : CSO)

- Graduate of any four year- business course
- Willing to do field work to personally interact with corporate clients
- Service-oriented and personable
- Responsible, persevering and mature, not over 25 years old

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES (Code : AE)

- College graduates, not over 28 years old
- With at least one year field sales experience
- With good communication skills & ability to provide prompt and accurate reports
- Hardworking, assertive individuals who are looking for challenges

We offer training and unlimited earning potential through competitive salaries, commissions, and incentives.

Qualified applicants are requested to mail their resume with photo and transcript of records to: (Code : _____)
Recruitment and Training Group
1331 Angono St., J.P. Rizal Makati City
or e-mail us at ubxhrrd@next.net

IMMEDIATE JOB HIRING

IF YOU ARE ---

- Energetic men & women of at least 20-38 years of age
- College graduates of at least 4-year course from reputable schools & universities
- Individuals who have a good command of English and Filipino language
- Those who are ready to undergo comprehensive company training and can work at once.

THEN YOU DESERVE THESE BIG OPPORTUNITIES:

- A **Starting pay of 18,000.00**
- Company sponsored travels (here and abroad)
- Career development and growth with our automatic promotion system

APPLY AT:

8th/F Suite 808 PSBank Tower
Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
(in front of Makati Med. City)

SCHEDULE OF INTERVIEW:

Monday - Aug. 6, 2001 Wednesday - August 8, 2001
Tuesday - Aug. 7, 2001 Thursday - August 9, 2001
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM ON ALL DAYS

Bring your comprehensive Resumé with 2 (2x2) ID pictures plus an extra ID.
Be in your proper business attire and expect immediate interviews

Sybase developers

Earn top salary providing production support for a major American securities firm in Manila.

Required skills include Sybase development experience and basic UNIX skills working in a distributed/networked environment (should be familiar with shell scripting languages such as Bourne or Bourne shell). Additional skills such as PERL and C are helpful as well as any financial applications are a plus.

Minimum 2 years experience in each required skill. Several weeks training provided in New York - possible sponsorship and transfer. Submit resumé to jobs@bachny.com. Specify MS03 in Subject line.

Unix/C++ programmers

Work on long-term assignment abroad for a fast growing American firm. Oracle or other database skills are a bonus. Competitive salary for qualified applicants. Minimum 2 years experience required. E-mail resumé to jobs@bachny.com. Specify DR05 in Subject line.



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Jaymie has gone through the highs and pitfalls in the college lifeblood. She's now a newcomer in the workforce.

New challenges will continue to emerge for Jaymie as a job seeker. Landing in a suitable job with the right company will take a lot of soul-searching, preparation and skills.

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SUNDAY

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

INQUIRER

MAGAZINE

August 5, 2001
Volume 14 No. 22

Lauro Vizconde

A New Beginning

Features

Survivors' Tales

One Night In June *by Rene O. Villanueva*

The playwright recounts how he became a crime statistic one night in Quezon City

3

First Person

At A Wake, Should You Say 'Condolence'? *by Monina Allarey Mercado*

Grateful as the writer was for sympathy, she realized that many people are not comfortable expressing it

5

For A Cause

Confronting Rape in the Courts *by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz*

Women's rights advocates have published a rape manual to change the biases against rape victims

6

Cover Story

Life After Loss *by Fe B. Zamora*

Lauro Vizconde turned his grief into a mission to reach out to families of crime victims. Today, he has another chance at love

8

Twists of Fate

The Price of Separation *by Ben Moses Ebreà*

10

Did OFW Danilo Afaia murder his family in a crime of passion or is he the victim of the strain of simply searching for a better life?

Perspective

I'm Not Here, This Isn't Happening *by Eric Gamalinda*

12

A multi-awarded writer recounts how ROTC changed his life during martial law

Regulars

Poetry *Clovis L. Nazareno; Dindo Perez*

2

The Word A Fantasy Meditation *by Fr. Ruben J. Villote*

14

This Week

15

Pinoy Nga! Soap Opera *by Jess Abrera*

15

Holes

Bats do not get lost.

Returning by day to hang from the beams

Supporting the roof of the coral-stone church,

Bats remember home, their

Passage is through the hole on the ceiling.

How the swallow discovered

The monument with the hole

In the Sacred Heart of Jesus,

To nest there; lay eggs, feed its

Birdlings, leave, then return to

The same hole, breed? And how come the hole?

Up on the mountain fastness over there,

A gaping hole is believed infested

With pythons and cobras; but caves

Are targets of rockets shot

By helicopter gunships, torching the surrounding

Greenery, and when it rains the hole

Remains unwet, also invulnerable to fire or water

The ear of the shell is also

Its mouth that whistles when the wind

Of the furious world smashes

Into the hole that is speaker and hearer,

Shelter, aquarium and terrarium, soul.

Clovis L. Nazareno

Para sa Isang Butiking Nadikit sa Fly Catcher Isang Biyernes

Nakita kita

kumakawag-kawag

itinutulak

ang buong katawan

para makaalpas

pero sa bawat piglas

ay lalo kang nababaon

sa 'yong parihabang kumunoy.

Nakita kita

naghahabol ng hininga

puno ng kaba

habang pumipiri-pirikit

ang 'yong katawan

na halos magkabakli-bakli

sa pagkakadikit

sa 'yong libingan.

Nakita kita

nang lisanin mo

ang mundong ibabaw

sa ilalim ng mesa

lyon na ba ang huli mong sandali

o may pupuntahan ka pa?

Hindi ko alam

kung ipagdarasal ka:

ang butiki ba ay may kaluluwa?

Dindo Perez



Cover Story page 8

The Cover Image Groom-to-be Lauro Vizconde is a symbol of hope for anyone who has survived the loss of loved ones to violent crime

Photograph by Mandy Navasero

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <slm@inquirer.com.ph>

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Survivors' Tales

by Rene O. Villanueva
photographs by Mike Alquinto

This renowned writer and playwright recounts how, one night on a Quezon City street, he became a crime statistic

One Night in June

June 2001

IT WAS ALMOST SIX MONTHS AFTER MY TRIPLE BYPASS SURGERY LAST JANUARY. I WAS JUST STARTING TO RESUME A NORMAL, ORDINARY LIFE: TEACHING PART-TIME AT U.P., ACCEPTING CONTRACTUAL WRITING JOBS. SIX MONTHS AGO, I WAS LEADING A MORE EXCITING LIFE: PRODUCING AND DIRECTING A CHILDREN'S TV PROGRAM, WRITING STORYBOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS, CONDUCTING WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR WRITERS OF VARIOUS

AGES, ENJOYING MY DAILY ROUND OF SMB, WATCHING AT LEAST A MOVIE A WEEK.

Throughout the short rush to the hospital, I was thinking: "Lord, bahala ka na. If you want me to die, it's up to you. But I don't think I'm going to die. I know I will survive this. With your grace Lord, I will survive this!"

But six months ago, my endocrinologist and cardiologist told me to get a less stressful job and lead a healthier lifestyle. The need for a bypass operation was largely the outcome of a five-year bout with diabetes. A year ago, in 2000, I suffered a stroke, then a heart attack, both in a span of six months. After the bypass, I heeded my doctors' warning. I resigned from my jobs, stayed at home and spent most of the time devouring all the bargain books I'd accumulated through the years in a metal rocking chair, a Christmas gift from my mother.

On the down side, my family had to make do with a very tight budget, what with all the medicines I had to take regularly to keep my blood sugar in check, keep my newly-repaired heart stable, and prevent diabetes from wrecking havoc on my various internal organs.

But in all, it was a pretty ordinary life.

Morning, 14 June 2001

My first normal working day in months! From Quezon City, I braved the morning traffic and crossed the Pasig to report to Tahanan Publishing House in Makati to check the dummy of 10 Unicef-sponsored children's books on child rights. I was coordinator of the series. I had with me a blue Unicef bag with the slogan, "Let's make our community child-friendly!"

The morning chore tired me so much, I decided to pass by my former office in "Batibot" in Cubao to rest, instead of going home. I needed to check on some scripts, but I really wanted to spend the rest of the day in an air-conditioned room. It was past 6 p.m. when I decided to save on taxi fare by hitching a ride home with some former officemates.

Usually, it only takes some 45 minutes from "Batibot" to home. I never made it home that night.

7:30 p.m. 14 June 2001

We were riding an almost antique 1983 Toyota Corona Silver gray car, heading towards E. Rodriguez Ave. via Betty Go-Belmonte Street. I was in the front seat with the company driver, Bong Lumindas; in the back seat were "Batibot" officers, Neneng Lacanilao and Edmund Soriano.

We were talking about a forthcoming live show presentation in Baguio. Edmund promised he would make for us his knock-out French toast. My mind was adrift in sugar melting in milk and butter when, from 50 meters away, I saw four men running towards us.

My thoughts shifted to badly produced low-budget local action films. The warm, garish glow transformed the short stretch of Betty Go-Belmonte into a weather-beaten movie set.

We were about to cross a bridge over a creek when my mind became a jumble of images. On our left, we passed by an impossibly colored apartment row: old rose walls with bottle green geometric grills. On

the right, a high cement wall almost covered with green vines and tiny yellow flowers, which, they say, shields from prying eyes an urban nunnery. Further ahead to the left was a row of decrepit *entreswelos* whose paint was beginning to peel from constant rain and neglect.

Then, I saw the four men scampering towards us. All were maybe in their 20s. Three were wearing unbuttoned polo shirts, their white *sandos* gleaming in the yellow lamppost light. One was wearing a



Lucky Villanueva is happy to survive, even as he bears the scars of his experience on his left cheek.

Lucky guy:
Villanueva can't
explain his
confidence
throughout the
ordeal.

checkered or printed black and white polo; another was in yellow ochre short sleeves.

The movie reel in my mind jumped off its sprocket. The four could be aspiring bit players; fairly good-looking, dusky, construction worker-type of guys. Could be your friendly neighborhood goons.

As they speed towards our car, I thought they were in trouble and needed help. I muttered, "*Aksidente yata. Tulungan natin.*" The guy in black and white prints dashed in front of the car and motioned us to stop. When the driver stopped the car, I immediately opened the right front door. The lead guy with high cheekbones and dark brown patch around his eyes jumped inside and shot the driver in the abdomen. I heard Neneng behind me, shouting. "*May baril, may baril! Iwan na natin ang kotse.*" That was when I saw the gun and realized I made a stupid mistake of playing good Samaritan. In a flash, the man with a gun has wedged himself between me and the driver, who was telling me in a hushed pained voice, "*Sir, nabaril ako.*"

I wanted to get out of the car immediately, but in my haste and tension, I could not remove the seatbelt which tied me to my seat.

"*Lalabas na po. Lalabas na po. Aalisin lang ang seatbelt,*" I heard Neneng telling the guys who seemed to be getting into the car all at once. No matter how hard I tried, I could not extricate myself from the blasted seat belt. Then I was pushed out of the car. The door slammed. And I found myself standing outside the car but with the seat belt still tied around my waist. I also did not know why I was clutching at my blue child-friendly Unicef bag. When I realized the seatbelt could drag me should the car speed away, I panicked. I shouted, "*Pigilan n'yo 'yung kotse; baka makaladkad ako!*" Then I decided to knock on the car's right window glass and tap the right front door to plead with the guy in black and white prints. He turned to me, aimed his gun at me, and fired.

For a brief while, everything turned into slow motion. The gun still pointed at me. The glass window shattering. My upper denture slipping out of my mouth, and I thought "*Naku, mahal 'yan!*" My mouth felt very warm. I dropped my bag, lifted the seatbelt from my waist, and freed myself from the car. Suddenly I was not sure if I have been shot. It was not how gunshots happen in the movies.

My face seemed to be expanding, the warmth spreading in my nose and mouth area. More jumbled images: Judy Ann Santos and her round face. I have a book to launch next month. Who will handle my class? Who will write the next batch of "*Batibot*" scripts? *Putsa, gastos na naman!* And finally: Am I going to die? No, I don't want this kind of dying!

I heard several gunshots and voices shouting. "*Nambabaril! Yuko! Yuko!*" I held my left cheek with my two hands and decided to let my body fall on the sidewalk. Upon landing on the concrete pavement, I saw near me my upper denture with a missing front tooth but I had neither the will nor the strength to get it.

Neneng asked Edmund to help me get up. The crowd helped us get a cab, which took us to St. Luke's Hospital. Edmund said he was afraid when he saw a pool of blood around my head area. He did not think I was still alive. But when he tried to lift me up, I grabbed his shoulder, and shouted "*Si Bong! Si Bong!*" He was relieved when he heard me though still not very hopeful that I will survive the ordeal, since blood was gushing from my mouth like water from a faucet.

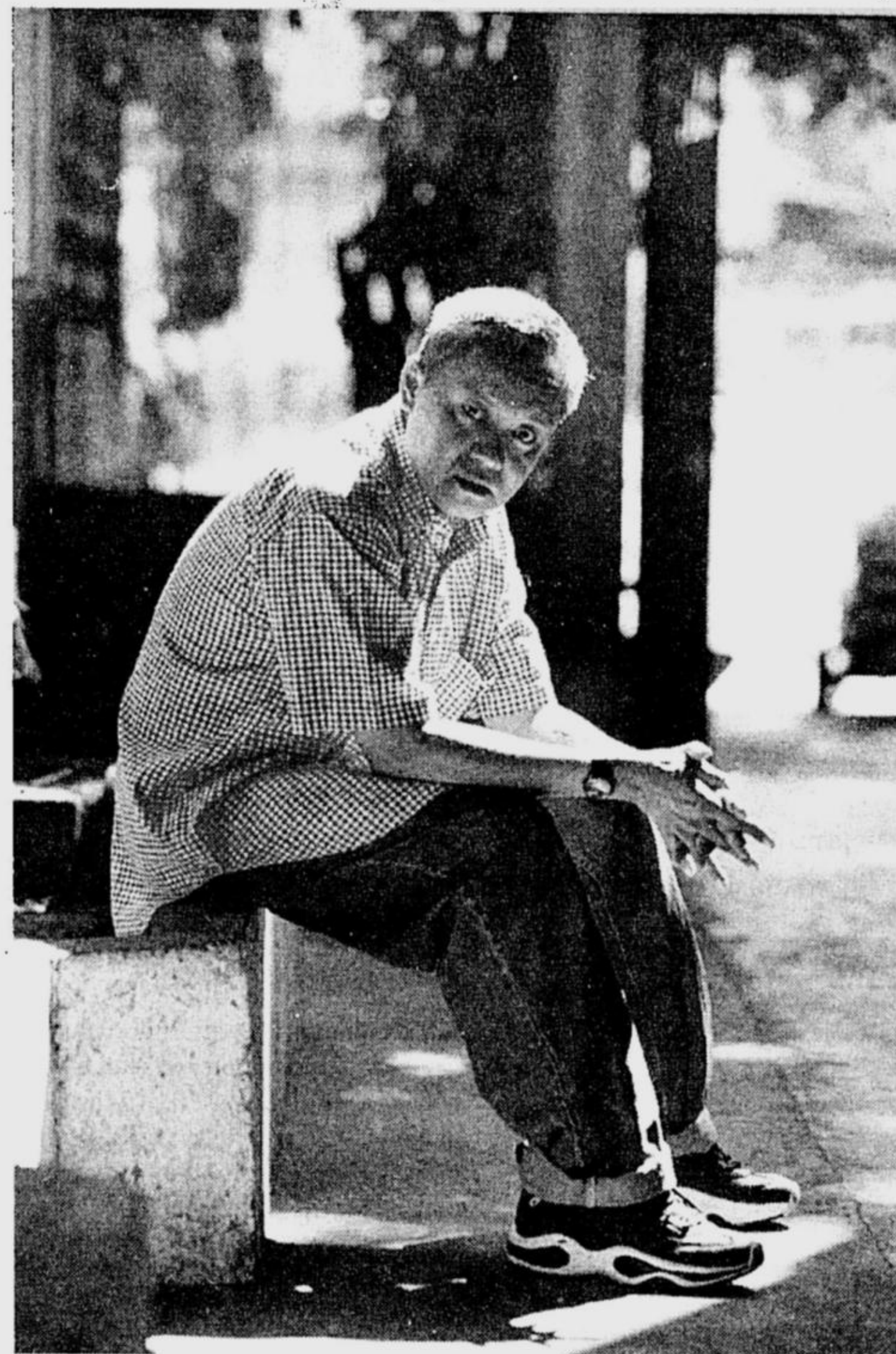
Fortunately, we were able to board a passing taxi cab. At the back seat, I was very worried about Bong, our driver. I was still not sure about my condition. We asked the cab driver to drive counter flow and speed away to St. Luke's. Throughout the short rush to the hospital, I was thinking: "*Lord, bahala ka na. If you want me to die, it's up to you. But I don't think I'm going to die. I know I will survive this. With your grace Lord, I will survive this!*"

I tried to ask Bong if he was okay. I could not talk well because my mouth was full of blood. I asked Edmund if it was okay to spit out the blood inside the cab. When he said yes, I spit out a warm, half-moon shaped coagulated blood which rolled down my shirt like nervous jello. I felt sorry for the cab.

Finally, we reached the emergency room. We asked the guard, nurses, attendants and doctors to attend to Bong immediately. Having rested a bit during the taxi ride, I sat relaxed on a long brown faux leather bench. A doctor approached me, "*Saan ho ang tama n'yo?*" I told him to attend to our driver first since "*Wala ho akong tama; napukpok lang.*" But he lifted my chin and said, "*You've been shot. Pero mukhang hindi nag-exit 'yung bala.*"

That was when I became terribly afraid. It was confirmed: I had been shot on the face.

They brought me to a bed while doctors and nurses tried to work out ways to stop the profuse bleeding. I was restless. I showed them the eight-inch scar on my left arm (where doctors harvested veins for my bypass) and tried to tell them about my medical condition, the diabetes, and bypass six months ago.



Amazingly, I did not feel any pain through all these procedures. Except when the doctor tried to stop the bleeding by stuffing my left and right nose canals with what seemed like yards and yards of gauze. When that did not stop the bleeding, they pulled out the bloody gauze and inserted a new roll.

When the bleeding stopped, I asked for, no, demanded, a face mirror. Somebody gave me a face powder mirror, and I saw my face as round as the faces of the Power Puff girls. My left cheek looked too plump. My upper right face had a mean bulge.

That night I had a five-hour surgery. The following day, my very competent surgeon, Dr. Edith Yap-Legazpi, said I was lucky to survive a close range gunshot on the face. The bullet entered my lower left cheek, passed through the gap in my upper right molars, crossed the nasal cavity and damaged the septum, then went up straight and shattered the floor of the orbit of my right eye. I was lucky no major vein was hit. I was lucky my eyesight was not impaired. For days, that would be a refrain. I was lucky I did not have a cardiac arrest. I was lucky the gunman fired only a .38 caliber *paltik*. I was lucky the hospital was near and traffic was not too heavy at that time. I was lucky I have a health card. And so on.

I can only smile back in gratitude. Deep within, I cannot possibly explain to anyone my overwhelming confidence throughout the ordeal.

Truth to tell, on that extraordinary night in June I was very sure God could not be too busy to leave me on my own. And that made the night truly extraordinary!

At A Wake, Should You Say 'Condolence'?

LAST YEAR, THERE WAS A DEATH IN THE FAMILY. WE WERE MIRED IN GRIEF BUT BUOYED WITH HOPE—AND WITH JOY. WITH JOY? YES, WE KNEW JOY OF A KIND AND IN A MANNER THAT WE HAD NOT KNOWN BEFORE. WE REJOICED THAT THE SUFFERING WAS OVER. WE REJOICED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER DEBILITY, NO AGING, NO LOSS OF MIND AND MEMORY. WE REJOICED IN THE PROMISES OF OUR FAITH: THAT ONLY THE BODY DIES BUT NOT THE SOUL.

Pope John Paul II says: "If the life of each of us is limited and fragile, we are consoled by the thought that, by virtue of our spiritual souls, we will survive beyond death itself. Moreover faith opens to us a hope that does not disappoint, placing before us the prospect of a final resurrection." (Letter to the Elderly, 1999)

On the occasion of this death in the family, I sought stability by saying over and over again the Catholic creed. First, I said that I believe in Jesus Christ, then that I believe in His resurrection and therefore in our own resurrection with Him. Death became for me a fundamental of faith. What is the meaning of life? Is death the end of life? Does death swat us down like a fly, squashed dead and nothing more? Or is there something beyond?

In the same letter, Pope John Paul II says: "Christ, having crossed the threshold of death, has revealed the life which lies beyond this frontier, in that uncharted territory which is eternity. He is the first witness of eternal life. In Him, human hope is shown to be filled with immortality. 'The sadness of death gives way to the bright promise of immortality.' These words, which the Church liturgy offers as a consolation to believers as they bid farewell to their loved ones, are followed by a proclamation of hope: 'Lord, for your faithful people, life is changed not ended. When the body of our earthly dwelling lies in death, we gain an everlasting dwelling place in heaven.' In Christ, death—tragic and disconcerting as it is—is redeemed and transformed; it is even revealed as a "sister" who leads us to the arms of our Father."

The promises of our faith enabled us to smile, chat and be cordial, sing and play the piano, throughout the wake. Friends and relatives were deeply comforting and, many times, the bringers of true joy and exhilaration.

We never wore black. At the wake, Pitoy Moreno said: You are wearing red. I smiled and said nothing. I wore red then and very often for the rest of last year because I needed courage.

No one in the family knew a young woman who came and sat for a time at the wake. As a host, my son Miguel sat with her to chat. She introduced herself as the daughter of Aling Bebeng, the old woman who sold packed lunch in the office. According to her, Aling Bebeng was helped by the person we were mourning. He paid some of the daughter's tuition and helped with Aling Bebeng's medical and hospital expenses until she died. I do not recall what words this young woman said to us. Her effort to visit, commuting on a rainy day from Novaliches to Makati, and sitting with people she did not know spoke eloquently enough.

A college classmate came and wanted to know the details of how death came about. While very fit, he was in his 60s. He told me that he was not afraid of death itself but was anxious about the process of dying. Then he spoke to me the loveliest thought: With the same intensity, savor pain as much as joy for they spring from the same source.

Yet another college classmate came, mine this time. That evening I did not recognize her. We'd been intermittently in touch for ladies' lunches. But it was a pale, gaunt stranger that I was looking at. She whispered that she too suffered a loss, her son. Only 32, he died of cardiac failure only a few weeks before, the outcome of many years of depression and nervous breakdown. What was my loss—expected as it was from a chronic illness—compared to hers of someone so young and brilliant? If she said words of con-

dolence, I do not recall them for her need was greater than mine.

Grateful that we were for the sympathy, we realized that many people are not comfortable with expressing it. A seasoned politician, classmate of the deceased, shook our hands feebly, then sat down and held a caucus well into the night with his entourage. Yet another politician from a long fallen regime came late in the night, went straight to the bier, prayed quietly for a considerable time, then walked out again without a word to us. Some business colleagues came in loud and tipsy.

But friends, ah, friends were different. They hugged us, they wept with us, they told jokes about the one who died. (And if abroad, they sent email.) His lawyer wrapped an arm around my shoulder as we stood by the bier and said: "We laughed often and heartily. I'll miss that." Stage actress, Lea Salonga brought the bouquet she received at curtain call. My longtime neighbor pulled out another chair for my feet and thus relaxed we reminisced about our early years as married women, thinking not at all of death in our families.

Best of all was Pocholo, who, having lost his wife the year before, had

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Confronting Rape in the Courts

FOUR YEARS AFTER HER CASE WENT TO TRIAL, RAPE SURVIVOR KRISTIN* STILL REMEMBERS ONE OF THE MOST HORRIBLE ROUTINES SHE HAD TO GO THROUGH IN COURT: "IN FRONT OF MANY PEOPLE, YOU ARE TOLD TO RE-ENACT SOMETHING YOU WANT TO FORGET IN THE FIRST PLACE. THE COURTS ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH YOU RECOUNTING THE EVENTS; YOU HAVE TO ACT THEM OUT IN PUBLIC. I HAVE NO WORDS TO MAKE ANYONE UNDERSTAND THE HUMILIATION OF EXPOSING ONE'S SHAME THAT WAY. YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE IN A FREAK SHOW."

"Women's groups have a lot of expectation from the new law, but the battle on the ground remains bloody. You can't change attitudes overnight just by introducing a new law"

Kristin speaks for other victims of sexual crimes who suffer the same trauma under the Philippine justice system, notes lawyer Evalyn Ursua, legal consultant of the Women's Legal Bureau. Along with other women's advocates, the Bureau has written and recently published "Addressing Rape in the Legal System," a training manual that "would hopefully make the system more responsive to social issues like rape."

Even the new rape law, Republic Act 8353 passed in 1997, which downplays the loss of chastity as a definition of the crime, can only do so much, she adds. "Women's groups have a lot of expectation from the new law, but the battle on the ground remains bloody. You can't change attitudes overnight just by introducing a new law." Certain myths and misconceptions about rape have been so ingrained

in the legal system that they are even accommodated in the new legislation, says this 1998 TOWNS awardee for Women's and Children's Rights Advocacy.

One of these myths is that the victim is expected to remember all the details of her ordeal accurately, says Ursua. "An inconsistent story brands her a liar when, in fact, there is no standard behavior that one can expect from the victim. A lot depends on the woman's personality, her temperament, background, upbringing, and so on."

Kristin recalls how it was to be grilled in court: "It was horribly frustrating, I could not remember some details. There was a tug of war between the lawyers who wanted to know everything to build the case, and the doctors who told me to relax first. But to file charges as soon as possible, which the legal system requires, one has to supply details to the police and the prosecutors. If you can't remember, if you fail to explain something, you lose credibility."

Our courts also tend to equate lack of consent to "tenacious resistance to prove the use of force. The victim must be black and blue to prove that she was not a party to her rape," adds Ursua. Again, Kristin's case disproves this. "What was foremost in my mind when I realized I was trapped in that motel room was that I had to survive. I had to live. If I were found dead in that room, who would have been able to tell my husband and my children that I did not go willingly to that motel? You try not to die, you try not to get hurt. You do everything to live."

Another misconception about rape is that it is a crime against chastity, Ursua notes, "which has been stretched to mean that only chaste or virginal young women can be raped." This, she adds, has resulted in an obsession with the hymen to prove rape. "Old healed lacerations in the hymen is taken to mean that a woman is sexually active, therefore she must have agreed to sex," she observes. This line of reasoning can go to incredible lengths, adds Ursua. "The average diameter of the Filipino man's penis, according to most legal arguments, is 2.5 centimeters or about an inch. As such, the logic goes, forced penetration by this object should produce comparable injury in the hymen. But the hymen is distensible and elastic!"

Illogical or not, the prevailing notion that only innocent or naïve women get raped has backfired on Kristin, a fairly accomplished career woman who has been described by the media in Davao where the rape happened, as being "too assertive, worldly and highly educated to have been raped." The presumption then becomes that the woman fabricated the charge, that she might in fact be having an affair with her rapist, loose talk that Kristin still recalls with a shudder: "I was called a whore, an extortionist, an adulteress, an immoral woman." Two weeks ago, she adds, "a woman whom I just met for the first time, after realizing who I was asked me, 'Did he really rape you? Why did you let him?' It was like being run over by a 10-wheeler truck again and again." Her family had to relocate to Manila for sometime to spare her children, says Kristin. Her young son, she found out later, had been in fist fights because his classmates repeated what they had read or heard in the Davao media.

Atty. Ursua: Myths about rape are accommodated in the new law

** The victim's name had to be changed because the case is still pending. All her quotes, however remain intact, if slightly edited for brevity*



Roger Carpio



Face-off: The victim confronts the suspect at a police precinct

That rape charges are easy to fabricate is another myth that the rape manual seeks to destroy, says Ursua. "The usual defense argument is that the complainant is a woman scorned and just wants to get even," she notes. "But what the victim goes through under our judicial system—the stigma and damaged reputation, the humiliating procedures—they're not worth the revenge. First step *pa lang, susuko ka na*."

Kristin confirms this. "Rape victims who seek justice are expected to present clothes, underwear, etc. as evidence. But after you've been raped, you'd want to get rid of anything even remotely related to the rape. You'd want to wash off the filth and would scrub and douche yourself raw. I cannot imagine not washing. Yet a rape victim is expected to keep evidence inside her body for hours, even days later, to prove that she has been raped."

Going to court becomes another ordeal. It was "a torture throne," says Kristin of the witness stand where the victim is not allowed to get off even when the court is in recess. "You sit there facing the gallery. You see the face of the rapist. You see the faces of the defense lawyers who have subjected you to much humiliation, mockery and scorn. You see their smirks and hostility and you know they're not finished with you yet. And you feel every ounce of courage and strength oozing out of you."

It was easily the most frustrating case she has handled, says Ursua, who has been lawyering for rape victims for 10 years now. "It's a protracted case and still pending," she adds, "stalled for two years now by the defense's graft charges against the judge who had refused to grant bail to their client." Kristin views such delays as aggravating to the victim. "Much has been said about the right of the accused to a speedy trial. What about the victim who also has a life to rebuild after it was destroyed? Doesn't she have a right to closure too? Justice is still the best medicine for healing."

The rape manual, says Ursua, hopes to achieve just that, as it targets government agencies like the Justice department, the Commission on Women, the Office of the President as well as NGOs and crisis centers providing services to rape victims. Indeed, the manual contains training exercises, statistics, suggested activities and case studies that assess the whole issue of rape: from the gravity of the problem to its socio-political and cultural impact on women; a closer look at what rape victims undergo during and after the ordeal; the existing laws on rape and what to expect from, and how to make, current procedures for gathering evidence as well as forensic and legal processes more sensitive to the rape survivor. Most useful are the suggested guidelines on how investigators and prosecutors can conduct interviews with the victims and address their needs, while doing a better job at the same time.

The manual's most potent user, however, is the Philippine Judicial Academy (PJA), which does training programs for the country's judges. Judge Zenaida Elepaño, acting court administrator of the Supreme Court who wrote the manual's chapter on court procedures, agrees that the publication will be "most helpful" to judges. "The manual details a better way of gathering and appreciating evidence, and this is important because judges decide cases based on evidence." Included in the manual are suggestions on how courtroom protocol can be improved. "Courtroom language is not always sensitive," notes Elepaño.

"In cross-examining the witness, it often appears as if the victim stands as the accused. Even the judges sometimes use sexist language."

Fortunately, despite the impression that they may be too set in their ways to change, the judges have proven to be open-minded about related topics, says Elepaño, a former executive judge handling youth and family cases. "The judges were so enthusiastic about previous gender sensitivity sessions that they even invited then women's representative Pat Sarenas to talk about the legal implications of the Domestic Violence Code," she adds.

The manual couldn't have come at a better time, cites gynecologist Dr. Miriam Sta. Romana-Guialani, a medico-legal officer of the Philippine National Police at Camp Crame. "Our ongoing thrust is more training for medico-legal practitioners at the National Bureau of Investigation and the PNP," notes this doctor at the PNP's Women's Crisis and Child Protection Unit. "The manual makes available important information to those in the legal system who may not be as enlightened on the issue of rape, especially those from the old school. With the manual, we can at least share the same language in pursuing the cases in court."

But Ursua herself remains cautiously optimistic. "There is only so much that the manual can do; the rest is a matter of political will," she notes. "The problems in our courts are beyond those addressed by the manual and these include distorted media handling, corruption, inefficiency and incompetence in gathering evidence, an adversarial judicial system and a slow legal process." A lot depends on how government agencies use and maximize the manual, she adds. "But this baby is beyond us. It can grow on its own, depending on what advocates and the legal system do with it." □

(For more information on the manual and where it is available, contact the Women's Legal Bureau at 11 Matimtiman St., Teachers' Village, UP Diliman, QC, tel. 921-3893 and 921-8053, fax 921-4389, or email wlb@philonline.com.ph)

Lauro Vizconde, who had been publicized for his
admission to court, out to give a public hearing
the victim. Today, decades after the murder of
his family, he has another chance to live.

Life After Loss

LOVE BECOMES LAURO VIZCONDE. BUT IT'S NOT LOVE THAT'S A RIOT IN THE HEART. OR LOVE THAT OVERTHROWS LIFE (AS GWYNETH PALTROW DECLARED IN "SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE"). IT IS LOVE THAT CREEPS INTO THE HEART, SOFTLY, SO SUBTLY YOU WON'T EVEN KNOW IT'S BEEN THERE FOR FIVE YEARS.

She has long hair, wears no make-up and refuses to face the camera. "It might be the cause of our breakup," Lauro begs off, as we ask him to allow us a snapshot or two of the future Mrs. Lauro Vizconde. She's 32 years old, born and bred in Manila, a certified public accountant (CPA) and the second child among three siblings. Needless to say, Lauro, who is 62, is as old as her father.

They met five years ago in her office, which, for purposes of ensuring that the engagement stays, will have to be kept off the record. "I was attracted by her simplicity. And I made her acquaintance," Lauro remembers. He does not recall hearing bells or feeling fire in his loins, or anything to that effect. He says he just had this unexplained longing to see her again.

"I invited her to dinner, but I wasn't courting her." After a year of being acquainted, Lauro pressed his suit. "*Saka lang ako nanligaw.*"

"She's very entertaining," he continues, his eyes sparkling, a smile dangling from his lips. "She talks wisely on all topics." She also watched avidly the progress of the trial on the murder-rape of Carmela Vizconde, and the murders of Estrellita and Jennifer Vizconde. So she saw the impact of media on the life of the man whom she was starting to fall in love with. "She accepted me on one condition: that I keep her out of media. And I agreed."

"If she's really meant for me, then she's meant for me. I've met her family and they have accepted me. I have no problems with my relatives," Lauro says. "Life must go on. This is like another chapter of my life."

"I have no doubt about her love," says the lovestruck Lauro. "She's caring, trusting, understanding. She loves me that much."

If and when she finally decides on the date when she's ready to walk down the aisle, it will be her first marriage, and Lauro's second. "We are planning a simple church wedding. It will not be luxurious, but it will be the best that I can give her." And because she loves Lauro that much, she has also agreed to live in the house on Vinzons St. in BF Homes, Parañaque.

TEN years ago, Mang Lauro was the picture of a grieving patriarch. He had been in the United States, moving from state to state, scouting for a place to start business. He finally opened a restaurant in South Carolina when he got a call from

Lauro Vizconde looks forward to a life less lonely, after grieving over his wife Estrellita and daughters Carmela and Jennifer (in tabletop photograph)





Lauro leafs through the records of years of chasing justice, above; at right, looking through family albums after the tragedy in 1991



the Philippines. His wife Estrellita and daughters Carmela and Jennifer have been found murdered in their house in Parañaque. The 18-year-old Carmela had been raped. The three Vizconde women died from stab wounds.

It was the season of passion killings. In Los Baños, Laguna, a comely coed, Aileen Sarmiento, disappeared with a friend, Alan Gomez. Their bodies would be found in another town. She was raped, then shot dead. Alan was brutally murdered.

Somewhere in Greenhills, student Eldon Maguan decided to buy pizza on his way home when he figured in a traffic altercation with a drunk Rolito Go. Rolito pulled out a gun and shot Eldon. In Timog area, college sweethearts Beebom Castaños and Cochise Bernabe were stepping out from a café when gunmen picked them up. The duo disappeared. Their bodies would be found somewhere in Central Luzon, brutally murdered. In Forbes Park, teenage Maureen Hultman was talking with friends on a side street when Claudio Teehankee Jr. walked towards them and started firing, hitting the three teenagers. One of Maureen's friends was killed on the spot. Maureen passed away after months in coma, while the other guy survived.

The Vizconde massacre stood out for the bizarre parade of suspects that was played and replayed on media. The first suspect was a *mestizo* who happened to look like Hubert Webb. Upon further investigation, the police realized it was a mistake. The police followed up by pinpointing members of the Akyat Bahay Gang as the culprits. Robbery, said the police, was the motive. But the charges didn't hold water. The suspects were released and the police came up with another angle: the Vizconde women were killed by the lover of Mrs. Estrellita Vizconde. "That was cruel of them. My wife was already dead," says Lauro. The theory was again quashed and the fourth angle surfaced: the suspect was Lauro Vizconde himself. "You see, the cover-up was there from Day One," he says.

"I hired my own detectives because I already had the feeling that the culprits were influential people," he recalls. He was also curious because Carmela had called him on June 13, weeks before the murder, and said she had turned down a suitor who was the son of an affluent political family. Lauro said Carmela didn't tell him who the suitor was, and the father wanted to find out.

One afternoon at the office of a police general, Lauro's curiosity was piqued when the general received a call from then Sen. Freddie Webb. In the middle of the conversation, the general covered the telephone receiver and cursed the senator. "The general was mad because the senator was inquiring on the progress of the case. *Nakikialam daw*," Lauro says.

Lauro says the police insisted the motive was robbery. Estrellita lost her jewelry costing about P1 million. Uncannily, the man who offered him this information was himself bedecked with jewelry. "Gerardo Biong had three necklaces, and he had a ring on every finger," Lauro remembers. "I didn't know he was part of the group."

The parade of suspects ended when Jessica Alfaro, hiding herself behind huge sunglasses, surfaced with a story pinning down Hubert Webb as the rapist. Jessica was maligned, her dirty linen exposed to the public. But she was steadfast with her testimony. She submitted her first affidavit in April 1995, four years after the murder.

"I prayed a lot. I never lost hope that justice would be served to my family," he says. Four years of

searching for justice was already a lifetime. When Jessica surfaced, other witnesses followed.

Defense lawyers attacked Jessica's testimony, but in vain. On January 6, 2000, Judge Amelita Tolentino sentenced Hubert Webb, Antonio Lejano, Hospicio Fernandez, Miguel Rodriguez, Michael Gatchalian and Peter Estrada to *reclusion perpetua*, or 40 years each, for the Vizconde massacre. Gerardo Biong, a former policeman, was meted 12 years as an accomplice. Hubert et al are detained at the National Penitentiary in Muntinlupa.

"I HAVE forgiven them," says Lauro. This does not mean he would love to see them out of jail. In fact, Lauro makes a monthly pilgrimage to Muntinlupa to check if Hubert et al are in their appointed cells. So far, he says, everyone is accounted for.

Lauro lost a family, but gained a bigger family in the Filipino public, media and the families of other victims of heinous crimes. He joined the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, which has some 6,000 members nationwide. Helping victims of violent crimes has become his full-time passion. He is also always among the first to visit families of victims of massacres and other forms of violent crimes.

"I don't even have to say anything. I just offer them my presence," he says. No words, he adds, can ever console a man who lost a family. It is fathomless grief. But it doesn't mean he has to stay there. "We have to be useful citizens. We have to move on," says Lauro.

Moving on, he says, may not necessarily involve the physical. Lauro still lives in the house on Vinzons Street where his family was murdered. "Everything is intact. Their shoes, clothes, toys, are still there," he states. A househelp cleans the house regularly, but things are as they were on the night on June 29 when a group of drug-crazed men killed Estrellita and Jennifer, and took turns raping Carmela before snuffing out her young life.

Lauro says he used to "feel" the very strong presence of his family in the house. Sometimes he'd come home to find his bed already fixed. Or the aircon turned on. "I wanted to see them, talk to them. I wanted to ask them if they have any message." But after the trial, the "feeling" waned. "It's very rare now," he says. But he is not moving out. In fact, he plans to bring home his new wife—who has to remain unidentified for love's sake—pretty soon.

The Price of Separation

SPORTING a new haircut and wearing a dark blue polo shirt and checkered shorts, 40-year-old Danilo Afalla met this writer at the lobby of the provincial jail in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, on a drizzling Thursday afternoon.

Afalla, a former overseas Filipino worker (OFW), flashed a faint smile. It was a picture of a man grieving the loss of his family.

But Afalla is no obscure man. He hogged the headlines after he was charged with four counts of parricide for allegedly killing his wife and three children in April this year.

He left the country on April 19, a day after the bodies of his wife Aperacion, 39, and his children Cheenie Claire, 13, Mark Anthony, 7, and Michael Angelo, 5, were discovered in a shallow riverbank grave in Bayombong. He was captured in Miami, Florida, and brought back to the Philippines on June 21.

Afalla's parricide case, described by law enforcers in Nueva Vizcaya as "a crime of passion," is the first case involving families of OFWs in the province

"I always avoid trouble," says Afalla, photographed from outside prison walls

When this writer asked him for an interview, Afalla fidgeted and refused to talk on the incident that shocked quaint Bayombong, 272 kilometers north of Metro Manila.

"I am sorry," he chuckled, "we cannot talk on (the case). That's the advice of my lawyer."

But in the course of our casual talk, Afalla instead posed this question: "Can you do it to your family? No father would like to lose his wife and children."

THE MURDERS OF DANILO AFALLA'S WIFE APERACION AND THEIR CHILDREN CHEENIE CLAIRE, MARK ANTHONY AND MICHAEL ANGELO BROUGHT SHOCK, PITY AND MYSTERY TO THE FAMILY'S RELATIVES, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS AND OFFICIALS OF BAYOMBONG.

The case continues to stir talk and emotions in the town four months after the discovery of the bodies of Aperacion and the children in a shallow grave in a riverbank in Barangay Don Mariano Marcos.

Their heads, according to police investigators, were hit with a hard object.

Prosecutors said Danilo Afalla's case had a lot in common with several cases lodged in various courts in the province.

"The only difference is it has an international bearing," said Provincial Prosecutor Celerino Jandoc, referring to Afalla's arrest in Miami, Florida, where he hid after allegedly committing the crime.

"This kind of crime is usually committed when emotions are high, due to negative reports or rumors that tend to destroy the solemnity and sanctity of marital relationships," he said.

To minimize time and effort in presenting evidence and witnesses on the case, Jandoc said they would recommend the consolidation of the case in one court before the hearings start.

The three counts of parricide charges involving Afalla's children were filed with the Nueva Vizcaya regional trial court's Branch 29, presided by Judge Gil Valdez, while the fourth case involving Afalla's wife would be handled by the RTC's Branch 27 presided by Judge Jose Rosales.

Court records showed that Afalla's parricide case, which lawyers and law enforcers here call "a crime of passion" fanned by rumors of his wife's alleged infidelity, is the first case involving families of OFWs in the province.

Afalla will also be the first accused to be subjected to DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) tests, once the equipment arrive in the country as part of the modernization plan for the Philippine National Police, according to Director Thompson Lantion, chief of the PNP's police-community relations.

Afalla's defense is being handled by the Bacquiran Bagasao Bacig and Sacayanan law offices, known in Bayombong as the "3 Bs."

The Afalla family has been known in the community for the disciplined upbringing of its children and for living a peaceful life.

"I always avoid trouble," Afalla, the fourth of seven children, stressed.

Alejandre Tamani, provincial warden, described Afalla as a silent man who has shown devotion to God since he arrived here last month.

Afalla's former teachers in high school at the Saint Mary's College (now a university) knew him as a "silent, disciplined and a good student."

Dr. Rupert Rigor, 51, his former teacher in literature and English, could hardly remember him. "Kasi 'yung mga gumagawa ng kalokohan ang madaling matatandaan, pero 'yung mga mababait, hindi masyadong natatandaan (Those who are mischievous are easy to remember but those who are quiet and kind are not that easy to remember). Most teachers would attest to this," he said.

"When I saw the news on TV, I thought, *parang estudyante ko 'yan noon* (I remembered that he was once my student). Personally, I cannot believe what happened. *Mabait ang batang yan, imposibleng magawa ni Danilo 'yun* (He is a very good boy, it is impossible that Danilo did it)," he added.

Ester Cantong, 48, head of the SMU Guidance and Testing Center and Afalla's teacher in Filipino and other related subjects for more than three years, similarly knew him as a "quiet and a diligent student."



Danilo Afalla during his presentation to local reporters in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya last June



"I was really shocked when I heard the news. *Bakit naging ganito ang buhay niya* (Why did his life come to this?) At first I could not believe it," she said. "I do not remember instances when he broke school rules. He was good, he belonged to the top (students) of our class."

Their neighbors said that after classes, Danilo's routine involved helping his parents in tending their fish pen and piggery business.

Afalla took his marine engineering course at the Philippine Maritime Institute (PMI) in Manila where he stayed with relatives.

After graduating in 1979, Afalla first worked in Cubao, Quezon City, as a tricycle driver and a part-time worker in a furniture shop. When he passed the board examination in 1981, he started to work in various shipping companies as a marine engineer.

Afalla said he harbors no ill feelings against his friend, Mario Santos. It was Santos who told police that he saw bloodstains in Afalla's car when the latter visited him before the discovery of the victims' bodies.

"I am not angry and I do not hate him, he is still my friend," Afalla said.

In 1987, Afalla married Aperacion Panopio and bought a house in Golden City Subdivision in Barangay Dolores in Taytay, Rizal. They raised their children there and Afalla continued to work abroad.

Though shocked about the incident, Aperacion's relatives had no negative impression on Afalla's relationship with her family. In fact, they refused to personally file the case against him. According to them, Danilo and Aperacion, like any other couple, shared happy moments with their children.

They said Danilo is a good husband. "*Napakabait na tao 'yan, wala akong masasabi, tahimik at hindi palasalita* (He is a good person, I cannot say anything about him, he is usually quiet and seldom talks)," Apolinario Panopio, 71, Aperacion's father, said in an earlier interview.

Afalla said he was earning \$2,500 (P132,500) monthly from his work as a second marine engineer, the second in command after the chief engineer of Crew Serve Shipping, his previous employer.

He said he had valued sacrifice for the sake of his family. He said he had to work overtime to sustain his personal needs abroad, because he was sending his monthly salary to his wife and children.

"My work involved checking and repairing engine operations before sailing, and it was not that simple. I passed three consecutive board examinations before earning this," he said.

But he admitted that his dedication to work to earn a higher position and stability in his employment prevented him from being close to his wife and children. The

demand of his work only allowed him to go on vacation once a year, upon the approval of his employer.

"But I almost toured the world," he boasted, saying the only place left for him to see is Greenland.

His relationship with his wife was tarnished by rumors, spread by their neighbors in Taytay, of Aperacion's infidelity while he was abroad. Afalla's 74-year-old mother Modesta said these rumors would have been scotched if only Afalla agreed to live on a 300-square-meter lot in Fairview, Quezon City, that she offered as a gift after his wedding.

"(In Fairview), his neighbors would be our relatives who would watch over his family," she said in Ilocano.

But Afalla sees his arrest as a way to clear his name, since he considers his fate twisted over the controversy surrounding the death of his wife and children.

"*Nagkadungis na ang buhay ko, ito ang panlinis* (My life has been tainted and this will clear it up). I'm a private person but my life turned public because of the media. It is all up to the court now," he said.

Despite the case lodged against him, Afalla still feels the determination that life will go on after the case is finished. "I will still work, anyway I am still young and able."

Jose Amansec, district officer of the Department of Labor and Employment in Nueva Vizcaya, said the increasing unemployment in the country has forced families to break apart as husbands and wives seek "greener pastures" abroad.

He said an estimated 60 percent of female OFWs and 90 percent of male OFWs are involved in extramarital affairs.

But Amansec said these cases have not been documented because of lack of openness among OFWs during counseling sessions. "It is a very secretive and sensitive affair. This tendency seems to be ingrained in our culture as we modernize, and with the growing influence of sexually explicit movies, and our uncontrolled yearning as human beings."

Afalla's case has become a wake-up call for authorities, local officials and OFWs in the province on how marriage and the stability of the family have become vulnerable to all types of social factors.

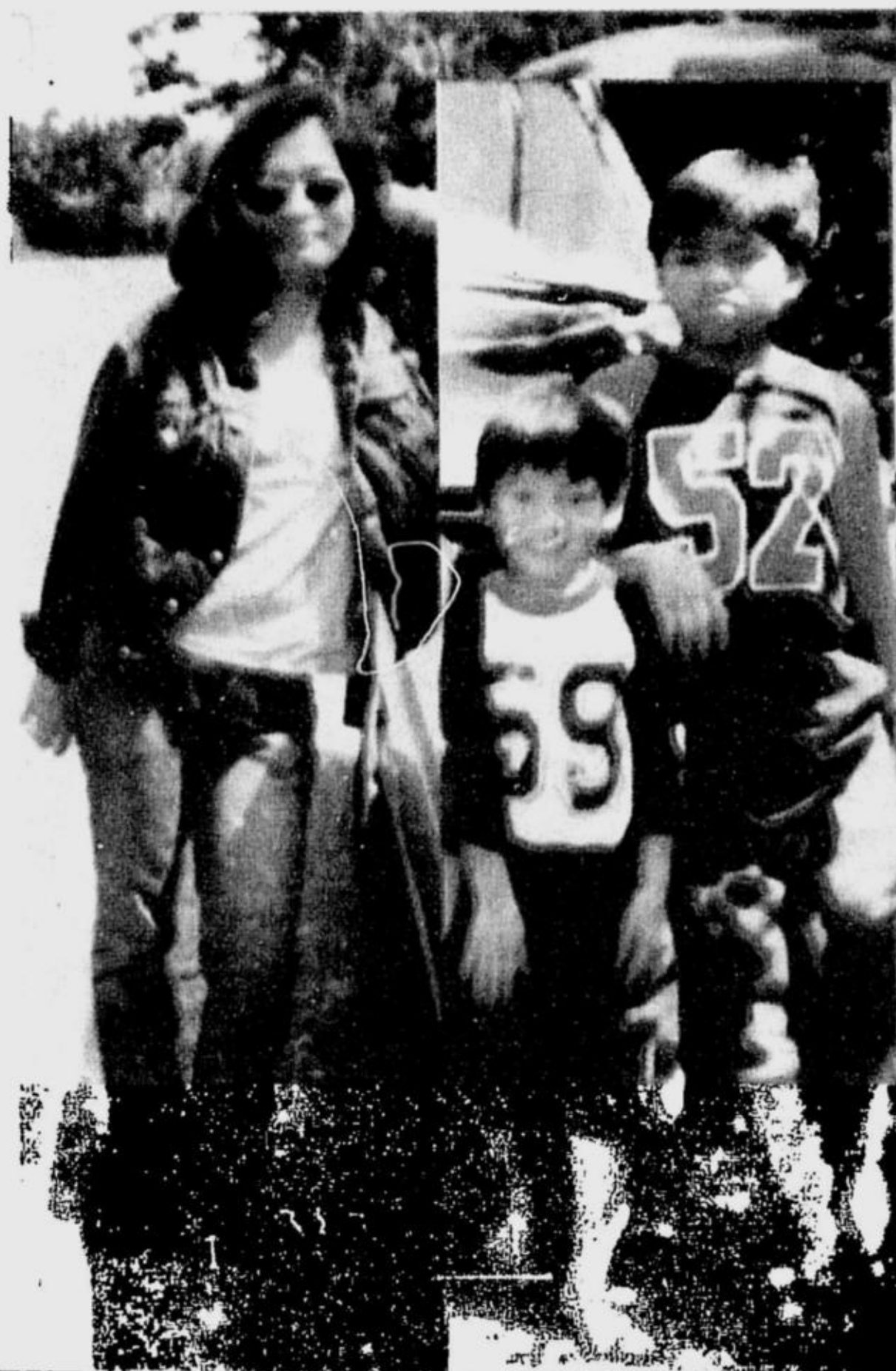
Foreign employment may lead to the breakdown of families as the couple's separation may trigger extramarital affairs, these officials observed.

While they describe Afalla's case as the "worst thing" to happen to OFWs, they see a need to introduce counseling among spouses left in the country to strengthen the families' spiritual and moral lives.

Among these groups is the Assistance Council for Vizcayano Overseas Workers (ACVOW), which was formed in 1999. ACVOW has been engaged in facilitating legal and paralegal cases among OFWs in the province.

A multi-sectoral organization composed of government agencies, the academe and non-government organizations, ACVOW is conducting a survey and inventory of OFWs in the province to organize them for counseling sessions.

In the meantime, Afalla remains in jail, himself a victim, as much as his loved ones, of the psychological toll the OFW phenomenon has taken on the Filipino family.



Afalla's wife Aperacion, children Michael Angelo, 5, and Mark Anthony, 7 (inset). No photo of the eldest child, Cheenie Claire, 13, is available

I'm Not Here, This Isn't Happening

FRIENDS FROM COLLEGE COME TO VISIT ME IN MANHATTAN AND AFTER TAKING THEM AROUND THE USUAL TOURIST SPOTS AND LUNCH AND COFFEE I ALWAYS GET THE URGE TO TELL THEM EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED IN 1975, WHEN I GOT KICKED OUT OF SCHOOL.

I was writing for the school paper then, as its literary editor, and my job was to fill up two pages of our broadsheet every two weeks. This may seem like an easy thing to do but I always got inundated with poems from lovesick freshmen and not much else, and it wasn't uncommon for me to twist the arm of some writer on campus that I knew for an essay or an old story stashed in some file or something.

So one afternoon it turned out I had absolutely nothing for three entire columns of text and I had to fill it up. So I decided to write a quick, humorous essay myself, about an incident I had just been through that weekend.

The story was this. Every Sunday, I had to attend military training on campus as part of a two-year requirement. ROTC was serious business in those years, barely three years into martial law. Student officers were considered important people on campus, and anywhere you saw them you had to salute, otherwise they'd take their revenge that Sunday, if they ever recognized you, by either making you do push-ups—the minimum punishment—or detaining you at headquarters well after dark.

The Sunday training seemed to me like a reflection of what was going on outside of school. Weekdays we were all students with our assigned sections and our own colleges and cafeteria cliques. The Science students looked down on the Engineering students, the Engineering students looked down on the Fine Arts students, and everybody looked down on my college, Arts and Letters, which everybody considered a place for losers. And everybody in Arts and Letters looked down on Journalism students, because it was obvious to everyone that journalism was a deadbeat course under a dictatorship. There were those of us who enrolled in journalism because it was the only writing course available, and there were many who were there because they failed the Science, Engineering, and Fine Arts entrance exams.

I felt everyone on campus was just a step above being Neanderthal. I was young and arrogant, and believed I was descended spiritually from the maverick poets of the turn of the century, like Rimbaud. I defied the prejudice against my course by dressing up in the most rebellious manner. It was the early seventies and punk rock was still virtually unknown in the country. I tore my jeans and stuck safety pins on my shirt, and I dabbed toothpaste in my hair to make it stiff and spiky. I tied small T-boli bells around my ankles. In class one of my professors, a woman who lived in one of the wealthy subdivisions in the city, smirked at my attire and told us that only lepers wore bells on their ankles, to remind everyone to stay away.

That was it then. I was a leper.

On Sundays military training established an entirely different hierarchy of power. Gone were the requisite shirtjacks of the pre-med kids, the mocha colors of the painting students, the radical faded jeans of the engineering boys. We all wore the same regulation fatigues and we were all under the mercy of military officers imported from some camp or something.

The officers were good at what they did, barking orders and teaching basic marching steps, and we spent hours parading around and around the campus football field to a troop of officers in the grandstand. I believe they were preparing us for the eventuality of a dress parade for the President or some other dignitary, and it was imperative that we marched as perfectly as a banana republic's army.

Half of the day was spent at lectures, but whereas the marching was conducted as efficiently as a Swiss army knife, the lectures were mostly unintelligible, thanks mostly to company officers who insisted on speaking in English and wound up babbling absurd orders like, All you with unbuttoned buttons, button your buttons now!

The only lecture I ever remembered was when we were taught how to assemble a bayonet and how to kill someone with it. It was all very simple. You thrust the blade into the opponent's jugular. That was what fighting was all about.

There were many ways to escape the drudgery of the lectures and the torture of marching round the

field all day. One could become a platoon sergeant, which meant either helping the commandant prepare lectures and drills, or volunteering to sell food and drinks during breaks and cleaning up the mess in the field after the day. I chose to do the latter. It was mayhem during breaks. I usually took care of the soda boxes and my hands got sore from plunging them in ice water and I got cuts from the bottle caps. I had to do all this quickly. Breaks lasted only a half-hour and the cadets had to push their way through—nobody lined up for anything—gulp their soda and sandwich down and head back to their platoon, hopefully without getting a stain or wrinkle on their uniform.

After breaks, the sergeants had about an hour to mop up, deliver iceboxes and crates back to the soda truck, and pick up trash. One afternoon a few sergeants and I decided to take a break ourselves. It was the training before finals. We only had one more week of military training to go, and then we'd all have completed our requisite two years. For every male in college this was an event more anticipated and more liberating than graduation. I more than anyone was thrilled by the event. I wanted an early start in celebrating. I suggested that after cleaning up we'd walk out of the campus back gates in Dapitan, and maybe get a beer or two at the Automat.

They'll beat our ass out if we get caught, one said.

We'll tell them we were sent out for an errand, I said.

Okay, but I know we're going to get it.

We casually walked away as MPs too busy patrolling the parade grounds ignored us. As we passed the pre-med building, however, an MP called out to us to stop. I don't know what came over me, maybe I felt like having a little adventure, but I sprinted away. My companions ran with me, and suddenly there were several MPs blowing their whistles and running after us.

We ran inside the pre-med building and bolted up the stairs. This building was one of the oldest on campus and was once used as an internment camp for Americans during the Japanese occupation. The main staircase creaked with every step. The corridors were wide and wound like a belt around each floor. By the time I reached the second floor I lost everyone else. I tried to open some doors but most of the classrooms were locked. The MPs' whistles shrilled all over the building. I found an open classroom, closed the door behind me, and ducked under the professor's table. I heard boots clomping past the room, doors being opened. I held my breath. I felt like Anne Frank in the attic, not making any sound lest the Gestapo discover me. I must have been under that table for an hour. Then I slowly crept out and opened the door a little. All clear.

I found a back exit out of the building. I walked as casually as I could towards the back gate. Another MP stopped me. I told him I had been asked to get some medicine at the local drugstore, as a couple of cadets had fainted in the heat.

Why don't you just call the medic, he said.

The medics sent me. They've run out of supplies.

He let me go and as soon as I was out of the gate I stripped my uni-



form off down to my T-shirt. It was a liberating moment, my brief victory. I went to the Automat, where I found the other sergeants, and we drank a Coke to our success. When the cadets started filing out later that afternoon, we joined the throng and I walked my way towards the jeepney stop, and went home.

So that was the story I wrote down to fill up my page in the campus paper. I made it light and humorous, and in the end I added a brief, more serious comment of my own. I said this incident proved to me how inconsequential military training was, and that our time could be better used studying or doing social work in communities along the train tracks, where slum families had no means to send their children to school. Military training didn't contribute anything to society, didn't teach us anything useful, and didn't prepare us for real life. This, I concluded, was my assessment of my two years of military training.

I thought it was an excellent piece for something that had been whipped up in a couple of hours. It was funny, it had a serious message, and best of all, it filled up the space in my page.

A week after the story came out, I received a memo in class telling me to report to the military training office. I knew it was about the story and I ignored the memo, thinking they'd file an official letter of complaint to the paper sooner or later anyway. A couple of days later I received another memo. This time it said I had to report to the office immediately. It had come to their attention that I allegedly had not had any military training at all during the last two years. It was a surprise to the office that I had been allowed to enroll in junior year when I obviously had not met the academic requirement. I was asked to present myself immediately at headquarters and explain the situation.

I went to headquarters after class. I told the officer who received me about the memo and explained that I had indeed attended two years of training, and that in fact the following Sunday would be my last training day. The officer told me to sit and wait for other officers to discuss my case. Nobody paid any attention to me for the rest of the afternoon. I noticed a few officers looking my way although I presumed they were just wondering what I was doing there. Later that afternoon everyone started leaving and finally I was left alone and a janitor told me to go home as he was locking the place.

The following day I received another memo, saying I was not allowed to attend the last training, as my records showed that I had had no previous training at all. I decided at this point to let it all just go hang. By that time I was sick of everything. I was sick of school, where everybody thought I was taking a deadbeat course. I was sick of the superficiality of the students, who seemed to me as though they had entirely imbibed the values of Marcos' government, and had spent all their years in college prepping themselves for the glamorous life the New Society promised. I was sick of the professors who told us to behave and not speak and not try to learn more than we should, because a little more learning could be a dangerous thing.

So I ignored the warnings. I skipped the last training. Finals week was coming, and I had more important things to do. Memo after memo soon came streaming to me. Every time the department messenger came to our class, he didn't even have to say anything. My classmates all would turn to me and say, Another one for you. The memos became more and more threatening. One said I would not be allowed to take my finals, since taking the finals required that I had taken the final military training. Finally, one memo said I was going to be transported to Camp Crame, one of the main military camps in the city. I was going to be detained there until I finished my two years, because I had broken some law stipulating that no student should be allowed to enroll in junior year without at least two years of training.

My college dean asked to see me in her office. She was a small and quiet *mestiza* with a look made severe by her appearance. She wore only black and tied her hair in a tight knot behind her head. But when she saw me she was not severe at all, but almost concerned.

What's going on here? She asked me.

I explained everything. I didn't tell her that I suspected all this was happening because of the story I wrote. I had no proof to show her that this was so.

They want to send you to camp, she said.

Can they honestly do that? Why would they do that? I'm not a communist. I didn't do anything.

What do you want to do?

I don't know.

I suggest you drop the course.

The entire course?

They'll never let you take the finals. And even if you did, they'll invalidate your grade. Drop the course.

Okay, I said.

I'm going to give you an honorable dismissal. So you can enroll in another university. Just not here. Stay away from here.

You know I didn't do anything wrong, I told her.

I can't do anything.

That same day I got my honorable dismissal. I didn't even return to class. I walked out of campus and walked around the streets of the neighborhood. I felt an exhilarating sense of release. I no longer had to answer to anybody. I had no finals to worry about. I could look for a job. I was free.

A day later reality set in. I worried about what my Mom would say when she found out. I wondered if the military would come knocking on our door to haul me away. I didn't talk to anyone about it. I felt like a fugitive, waiting for the day when the military would get me. I wanted to get out of the country, and started reading up on how to escape. I thought about my aunts and my uncle in the States, and wondered if they would take me. I thought I'd go to the States and study there. But Marcos had limited all citizens' rights to travel. And I thought I would certainly have some record somewhere. The minute I applied for a passport, the minute I stepped into the airport, that was it. So I stayed, and mulled, and grew more and more paranoid.

Finals came and went. I went out every morning, as usual, and hung out at the Automat. I stayed there all day listening to the juke box, and at the end of the day I went home. One evening Mom told me one of my professors had called her. He was my news writing professor and he worked in the same paper as Mom. He was worried that I had missed the last week of class and that I had not taken my finals. None of my professors had been informed of my situation.

I dropped out, I told Mom.

Why in heaven's name did you do that?

I just got sick of it all.

Of what?

Of school. Of everything. I just got sick of it.

You had a scholarship, Mom reminded me. You know I can't afford to send you to another university.

I'll look for a job.

At your age?

I'll find something. But I'm never going back to school.

I didn't bother to tell anyone what I suspected was the cause of my dismissal. Everywhere, journalists were being sent to jail and tortured for writing about what they believed in. Labor organizers and student leaders were being picked up and killed. And there I was, a junior who had no political affiliation nor any ideology, who had written a humorous space-filler and was now in deep shit. My life was not worth fighting about. That, too, was liberating. To be invisible in the midst of the chaos that was only beginning to happen all around me.

The country was in chains, but I, at the age of 18, in my junior year, found myself suddenly free. 

Eric Gamalinda is the author of "My Sad Republic," winner of the Philippine Centennial Prize in 1998, and "Zero Gravity," winner of the Asian American Literary Prize in 2000. "I'm Not Here, This Isn't Happening" is a work-in-progress, a cycle of stories on the themes of home, exile and outer space.

A Fantasy Meditation

You have always imagined your future as a rich and powerful man or woman of substance. But what if the doctor told you that you had two months to live? How would you feel? What would you do?

IMAGINE that you are a "man (or woman) of substance." You have several millions in the bank, and several more stashed away in some secret places in your house. You own condominium units in Manila, Quezon City and Alabang, a fleet of cars in your garage, acres of land in Cebu and Zamboanga and, as if so much is not enough, you are still fighting your own brother and stepmother in court for the ownership of more properties in your hometown where you intend to run for mayor. Your dream is to become very rich, powerful and popular before you hit age 40 so you can send all your children to study in England and run for president before the age of 60. You have your future and the future of your dynasty all figured out in your mind as you sip your morning coffee in the garden. Remember that you are just imagining.

Now open your eyes and see where you are right now. You are in the waiting room of a medical clinic waiting for the results of your medical check-up. Notice your surroundings: the color of the room, the pictures and diplomas on the wall, the magazines on the rack, the other patients waiting, like you, for the appearance of the doctor.

The door of the doctor's office opens, and he walks in. Take a good look at the doctor's face. Can you read in his eyes what he wants to say to you? Immediately you tell him to speak to you honestly—without fear or guilt. Then, slowly and with compassion in his eyes, he tells you that you have an incurable disease. You ask him how much longer you have to live. He says, "Two months of active life at most, then a month or two in bed."

How do you react to this news? What do you feel? Stay with these feelings for a while. Now rise from your chair, and walk out the doctor's office and into the street. Where are you going? Do you feel like talking with anyone? Whose name first comes to your mind? Do you feel like running back to the doctor to check if he's not mistaken? You remember him saying, "Two months of active life at most, then a month or two in bed."

When you hear the word "bed" in your mind, you wake up as if from a hypnotic spell, and you find yourself still in the doctor's clinic. The doctor is looking into your eyes, smiles at you and proclaims that you are in perfect health. Remember that you are still imagining.

Now close your eyes, and continue dreaming your dream of possessing much money, power and popularity as a "man or woman of substance." Be still, and breathe deeply for three minutes. Then, reach out for your Bible and open it to Luke 12:13-21, and read the parable of the rich fool. What is *The Word* telling you?

Please read this. Does it make sense to you?

"Listen Christian!

I was hungry, and you formed a Human Rights Club to discuss the politics of my hunger. Thank you.

"I was imprisoned, and you crept off quietly to your chapel in the cellar, and prayed for my release ...

"I was naked, and in your mind you debated the morality of my nakedness ...

"I was sick, and you knelt and thanked God for your health ...

"I was homeless, and you preached to me about my home in heaven ...

"I was lonely, and you left me alone to attend to your Sunday obligations ...

"You seem so holy, so close to God. But I am still very hungry, lonely, and homeless."

Bob Rowland
(Adapted)

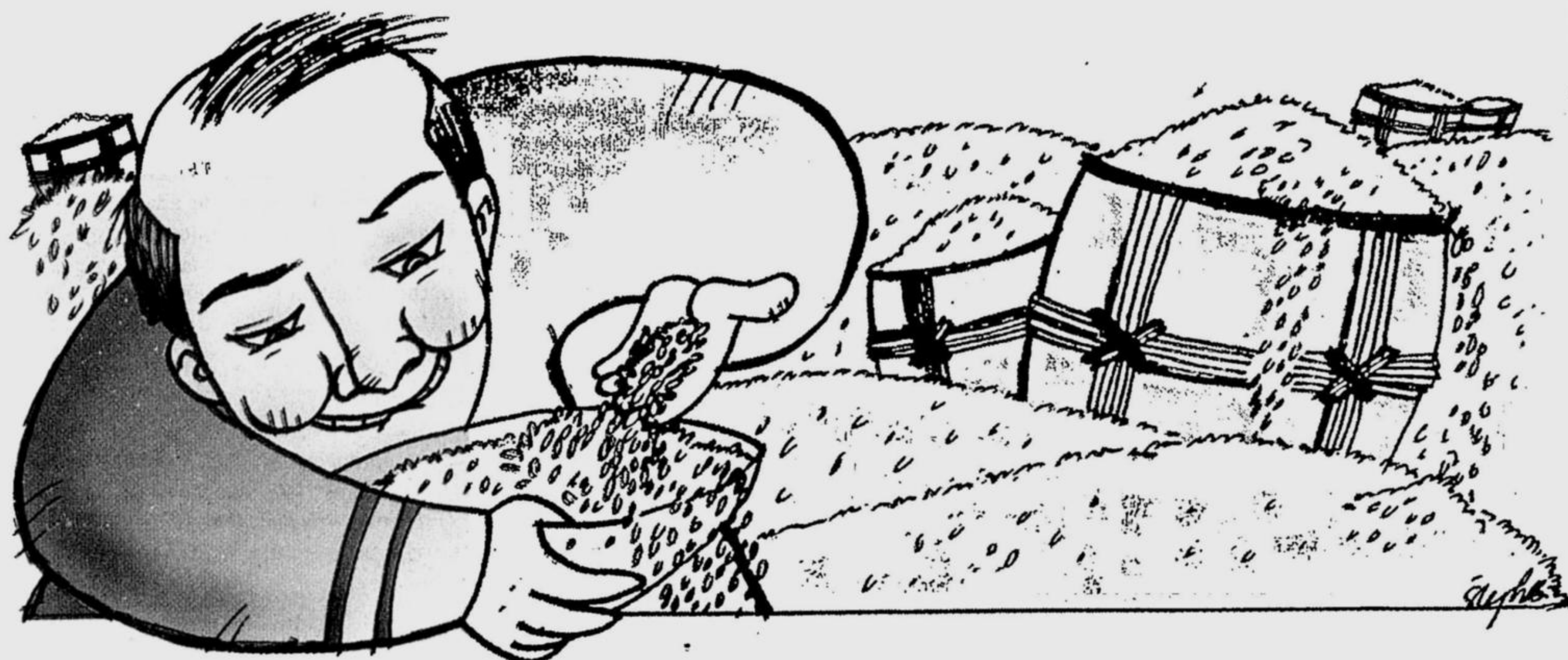


Illustration by STEPH BRAVO

This Week

Art

Artforce Mayon, a fundraising exhibit by the Bicol Artists' Guild for the benefit of the affected families of the recent Mayon volcano eruption, ongoing until August 12 at Donada Art Gallery, 2618 RL Bldg., Donada Street cor. Vito Cruz, Malate, Manila. For details, call 400-0731.

Beyond Painting: Never Too Late to Look Forward, a



The Traveler, featuring Marge Enriquez, at the RCBC Plaza Galleria on Aug. 9

solo exhibit by visual artist Claire Adra Farnell at Allegro Café Italiano, Glorietta 3, Makati City starting August 6.

Refresh: the '70s and '80s, an exhibit of selected pieces by Vicente Manansala, Galo Ocampo, Ang Kiukok, J Elizalde Navarro, Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Bencab, Danny Dalena and Onib Olmedo, until August 11 at the Lopez Museum, Benpres Bldg., Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. For details, call 631-2417.

Groundwork, an exhibit of prints by aboriginal artists from the Canberra School of Art at the Australia Centre, 104 Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village, Makati City until August 10.

Journeast: Passages to Self-Rediscovery, a solo exhibit by

Rachy Cuna at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Central Bank Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila until August 11.

Edgardo S. Santiago will mount a **photo exhibit** on Philippine shanties from August 6-18 at The Alcove, Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati City.

Still Life, an exhibit of pastel paintings by Pol A. Mesina Jr., till August 18 at the Food Park, Enterprise Center, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Manila Sanitarium Foundation Inc. will hold a fundraising **art exhibit** by various artists at the lobby of Manila Sanitarium and Hospital, 1975 Donada St., Pasay City from August 6-17. For details, call 536-3677.

Vertical Horizons, Reggie Yuson's exhibit of sculpture, until August 13 at the Lopez Museum Shop, Rockwell Power Plant, Makati City. For details call, 898-0981.

Music

Enchanted Hearts, a cocktail concert featuring Pilita Corrales, Dulce, Lance Raymundo and Leonard Obal at the Mandarin Oriental Ballroom, August 15 at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at SM Ticketnet and Ticketworld, Tower Records, Robinsons Dept. Stores, Music Museum, CCP and National Bookstore.

The Dawn will hold a series of mall shows sponsored by Mossimo to promote its new album "Prodigal Sun": August 5 at SM Centerpoint, August 11 at SM Fairview, August 12 at SM Southmall, August 18 at SM Megamall, and August 19 at SM North Edsa.

Onstage

Marge Enriquez presents **The Traveler**, a multimedia dance concert at the RCBC Plaza Galleria, August 9 at 8 p.m. The show consists of poetry by Australian writer Barbara Ramsay interpreted by choreographer Gerald Mercado and video director Ed Lejano, and the Philippine Music Ensemble will render new works by Lucrecia Kasilag.

Atbp

The anthology **Best Philippine Short Stories** edited by Dr. Isagani R. Cruz is now available in both hard and soft cover editions at all Filipino Bookstore and Bookmark outlets. For details, call 895-5023.

Colonial Art Treasures, a luncheon lecture on colonial Filipino artistry to be given by Regalado Trota Jose on August 7 at the Lopez Memorial Museum. For details, call 631-2417 or 449-2355. **Tell Me More**, a storytelling session for kids 3-10 years old with Melody Remorca, first place winner in the National Finals of *Salaysayan*, August 11, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Admission fee is P80. For details, call 892-1801.

The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc. will conduct **basic and advanced photography** courses starting August 12 at the Yslas Restaurante, Fort Santiago, Intramuros. For details, call 843-5341 and 813-7420.

Romansa ng Nobela, a two-day workshop on romance novel writing that includes lectures and actual writing exercises, August 11-12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Earthlite, 4/F COD Dept. Store Bldg., Cubao, QC. For details, call 417-1521.

Phoenix, a collection of poems by Edwin M. Cordevilla, will be launched on August 8 at the UP Bahay Kalinaw, Diliman, QC. Defense specialists offer **Street Survival 101 for Kids and Women's Way of Self-Defense** every Saturday of August. The course will cover basic useful strikes, hand-to-hand defense and anti-rape techniques. For details, call 532-6391.

The Parañaque Dental Chapter invites all interested dentists to its **2nd Hirit Scientific Seminar** titled "Live Show... Part II" to be held at the Asian Center-Skyline, Filinvest Corporate Center Alabang on August 12. Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. For inquiries, call 809-1678 and 820-2356.

X-manila

Forward Motion, a program of films charting the development of British dance in the past 80 years. Screenings will be held at the Rose Memorial Auditorium at Central Philippines University-Iloilo on August 6, and at the Gallaga Theater, University of St. La Salle-Bacolod on August 9 and 10. For details, call (033) 329-1777 and (034) 434-8551.

St. Scholastica's Center of Spirituality (Iruhin West, Tagaytay City) offers the following programs for women seeking a place and time for **quiet prayer and renewal**: Conflict in the Family: Danger or Opportunity? (August 10-12); Healing of Memories (August 17-19); Twilight Years for women 65 years and above (August 28-30). For details, call (046) 413-1535 and 850-5439.

The **SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE** welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera

Soap Opera



FIRST PERSON...from page 5

the edge of treading a few steps ahead on the territory I was only entering. He is a gourmet and an excellent cook. Without preamble or a doleful face, he took my hand and said: "I will cook for you as soon as you feel better." And he did, a superb lunch to which he also invited my daughter and some of my favorite friends.

"I will cook for you": that is the most sincere expression of sympathy I have ever received. In turn, I hope to say something as apt, given that I am not a gourmet cook. I love what my mother used to say: *Pesame*. Your grief weighs on me, too. But the word "condolence" sticks in my gullet, because it is now effete from mindless use. Assuming that sympathy is a matter of being sincere at a time of apparent loss and less apparent, but real gain, I believe I will say what I learned from this death in our family. Live, do not grieve. Press ahead, strive not to miss. Focus on the gain, not the loss—the gain in heaven, not the loss—however severe—on this earth. Cry but only by yourself. Rather laugh more because being cheerful is an act of faith that the one we love has reached home.

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